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September 1, 1975

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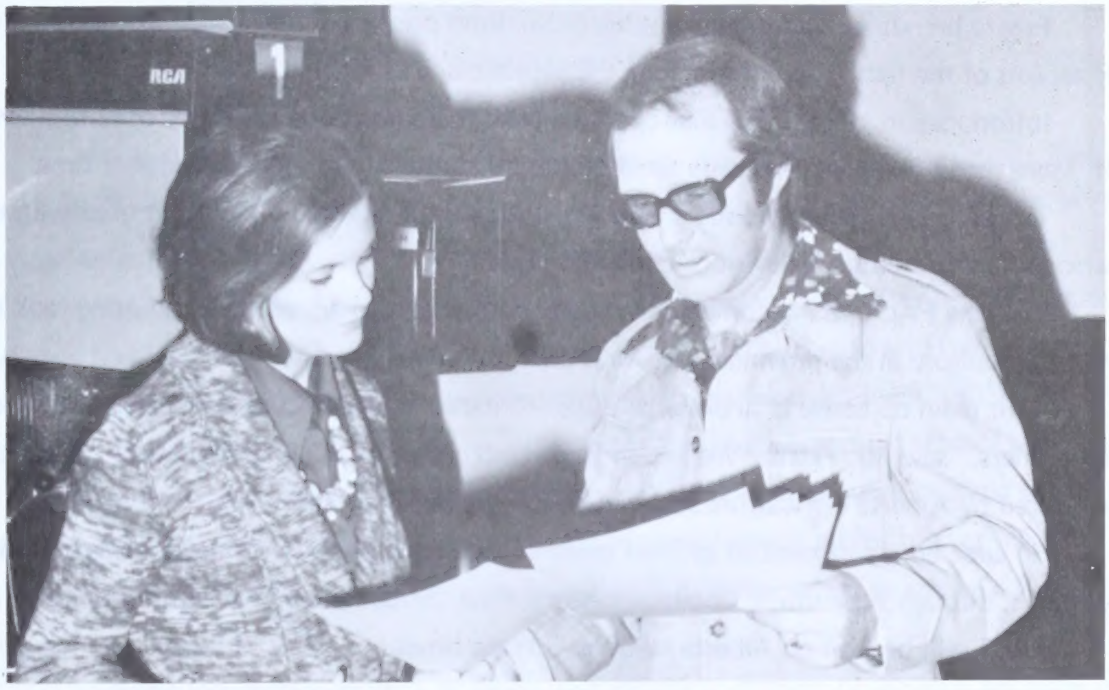
NEW LOOK FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM



FACT hosts Sue Bard and Noel McNaughton discuss the television program's fall schedule

For Alberta's agricultural producers, life is becoming daily more complex.

Fluctuating market prices for their products, the need for sophisticated equipment, encroaching city suburbs and other undeniable factors constantly alter the nature of farming and farm life. The same factors ultimately affect urban consumers, in their food prices and their choice of lifestyle.

Farm and City Today (FACT), Alberta Agriculture's television program, is changing to keep pace with the changing times.

Sue Bard and Noel McNaughton of the department's Communications Branch will co-host the program in its new 30 minute format.

The new half-hour shows will kick off on the weekend of September 6, and will be aired Saturdays or Sundays on six Alberta stations.

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"The program's co-hosts will draw topics from all phases of agriculture -- not only farming practice, but concerns of the homemaker and information of general consumer interest," according to Doug Pettit, supervisor of Radio and TV, Communications Branch, Alberta Agriculture.

Freeze branding, field dressing of big game, food prices, country vacations, and socio-economic aspects of the family farm are among the topics planned for this fall.

Introduced in 1970, FACT has operated until this summer as a daily 15 minute show, says Mr. Pettit. More than 1300 programs were aired on several stations in Alberta during that time.

The program is being produced in co-operation with Access TV North, formerly known as the Metropolitan Edmonton Television Association (MEETA).

The new FACT will encompass the topics formerly covered, with an enquiring look at all aspects of agriculture in the province, says Mr. Pettit.

"Our main objective is to present issues of interest to agricultural producers and urban or rural consumers," says Mr. Pettit. "We're also striving to promote public awareness of the various programs offered by Alberta Agriculture and the services we make available."

He adds an assortment of printed material will be offered on topics discussed during FACT programs, through Agriculture Communications, Post Office Box 3010A, Edmonton.

FACT will be seen on Alberta stations at these times:

Calgary	CBRT	Sunday	10:30 a.m. (Oct. to Dec.) 12 noon (Sept., and Jan.-May)
Edmonton	CBXT	Sunday	10 a.m.
Lloydminister	CKSA-TV	Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Medicine Hat	CHAT-TV	Sunday	3 p.m.
Red Deer	CKRD-TV	Sunday	12:30 p.m.
Lethbridge	CJOC-TV	Sunday	12 noon

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SOYBEAN, OIL AND MEAL SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

by Peter Perkins, Market Analyst
Alberta Agriculture

Despite current price strength in the international oilseeds sector, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) analysts are still predicting lower prices for soybeans in the new crop year which begins September 1.

This is not surprising, particularly in view of present indications of record supplies and sluggish demand for beans and bean products during the 1975-76 marketing year.

The USDA estimates the approaching soybean harvest will yield a little less than 1.5 billion bushels. This would be 18 per cent more than the weather-spoiled crop of last year, and only 90 million bushels short of the record 1973 harvest. Furthermore, weak demand for soybeans throughout the 1974-75 crop year has caused stocks to remain much higher than anticipated. A relatively high carryover of stocks and a near record crop, appear certain to ensure a record supply of beans throughout 1975-76.

Total disappearance of U. S. beans is expected to increase by about 8 per cent, but this would not be sufficient to absorb the anticipated 20 per cent increase in availabilities. It is, therefore, more-or-less inevitable that U. S. soybean stocks will be at a record level of about 400 million bushels when the crop year ends next August. Such a carryover would be 22 per cent higher than the previous record of 1969.

These estimates assume a 7 per cent increase in domestic crushing activity, and a 10 per cent increase in export demand. The estimated export disappearance of 450 million bushels assumes some buying on the part of the Soviets. So far they have not contracted for any soybeans, and it is generally thought that the maximum they would buy would not be more than 75 million bushels. Purchases of this magnitude would not appreciably affect the U. S. soybean supply situation, and stocks would still remain at a record high.

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Crushing activity in the U. S. A. will show a mild recovery throughout 1975-76, but at this stage an increase of more than 7 per cent appears unlikely. Crushing margins are expected to remain tight and a return to full capacity production is not anticipated. A mild recovery in economic activity in the U. S. A. and the global economy should encourage some replenishing of depleted soyoil stocks, but increased competition abroad and the greater penetration of palm oil into the domestic market will tend to dampen the forces of price recovery in the soyoil market.

The protein meal market remains depressed with no immediate signs of recovery evident. Livestock numbers have contracted and prospects for a continuing poor profit situation in the beef feeding business suggest a correspondingly reduced demand for meal. Increased competition in the world meal market, particularly from Peruvian fish meal and Brazilian soy-meal, indicate that price recovery in the market is unlikely.

All these factors point to a decline in oilseed prices from current levels. Tight holding policies by U. S. farmers have helped to add strength to the market, but it is thought that current soybean price levels above $6 per bushel cannot be maintained. Post harvest pressure should soon force prices back to early summer levels of around $5 per bushel.

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BEEF CATTLE PRICE PROSPECTS

Canadian fed beef prices are likely to get back to the low $40 level shortly and to remain there for the rest of the year.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, Jim Dawson, says "Canadian prices are expected to be under pressure from non-fed beef and from the U. S. market during the last quarter of this year."

With the border now open between the United States and Canada, this fall's Canadian cattle market will probably be on an 'import basis' relative to that of the U. S. and slaughter cattle will be imported into Ontario.

"This situation," says Mr. Dawson, "is likely to occur because the seasonal supply and placement of short-keep cattle comes earlier in the United States than in Canada. Allowing for the feeding period of short-keep cattle, the U. S. will have a heavier run of fed beef in the last quarter of this year, with Canada's main flow starting in the first quarter of 1976."

Mr. Dawson says a Canadian price advantage of approximately $5 per hundredweight would be enough to offset freight costs from the United States and to offset the devalued Canadian dollar and thereby allow U. S. slaughter cattle to flow into Canada.

An early price estimate has been made by the "Iowa Farm Outlook" for 1976. The price ranges from the high $30 level to the mid-$40 level. "At this time, says Mr. Dawson, "it seems a reasonable estimate, since feed grain prices are unlikely to come down enough to cause any sudden change in the placement of lighter cattle on feed. Also, the U. S. and Canadian calf crops are up enough this year to ensure a plentiful supply of cattle next year."

Feeder Cattle

In view of barley prices having stayed above the $2 a bushel level, the demand for feeder cattle will be limited again this fall. Mr. Dawson expects prices for short-keep feeders (750 pounds and over) to stay about $3 below fed beef prices or around $38 to $41 a hundredweight. The price for good calves weighing between 600 and 750 pounds is likely to be between $30 and $35 a hundredweight, but calves weighing under 600 pounds will probably sell for less than $30 a hundredweight. Mr. Dawson says "Higher prices cannot be expected for light calves as long as barley prices remain at $2 a bushel or more."

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Beef Cattle Price Prospects (cont'd)

Cows

Cow prices in Western Canada at the present time are ranging between $10 and $20 a hundredweight with no price improvement in sight because of the culling season just ahead.

The highest monthly average price for D1 and D2 cows in Calgary was $26 a hundredweight in May.

The increased volume of cow slaughter - 74 per cent above last year's level in the U. S. between April and June and up 30 per cent in Canada during the first six months of this year - and the low price of imported boneless beef have held the line on cow prices.

Canada - U. S. Beef Import Quotas

Apart from two exceptions, trading policies in livestock and meat products between the United States and Canada got back to normal with the end of import quotas on August 6.

The exceptions are that the United States must still certify that their export livestock is free of DES and Canadain beef import quotas are to remain in effect until the end of this year.

Canadian import quotas have been allocated according to past trade volumes and are as follows: U. S. , 7 million pounds; New Zealand, 23.5 million pounds; and Australia, 18.1 million pounds.

To some extent Canada's present policy parallels the U. S. approach to import quotas on beef. That country is allowimg almost 1.2 billion pounds to be imported this year. However, Canada was not allocated a share of this quota in 1975 because Canadian beef trade to the U. S. was under quota restrictions when the U. S. allocated their 1.2 billion pound global import quota.

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LATEST REPORT ON WESTERN ENCEPHALITIS CASES IN ALBERTA

The number of suspected cases of western encephalitis in Alberta horses has now reached 90, from a total of 12 two weeks ago.

Dr. R. G. Christian, head of Alberta Agriculture's laboratory services branch, reports that 90 per cent of the 90 suspected cases have been diagnosed south of Calgary, mainly in the Lethbridge, Taber Bow Island, Brooks and Medicine Hat areas. The remaining 10 per cent have been scattered throughout the province with a small concentration in the Camrose area.

Western encaphalitis, which can affect several species of animals and human beings, is a brain infection that is caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes. Typical symptoms include sleepiness, inco-ordination, fever and inability to eat. Because the virus has to be isolated or serological evidence of the specific infection has to be obtained, it takes several weeks before a tentative diagnosis can be confirmed.

According to Dr. Christian, the outbreak of western encephalitis cases in Southern Alberta has slowed down considerably as a result of many horses having been vaccinated and the effect the cooler weather has had on mosquito activity.

He says vaccines are still available, but that it is doubtful whether vaccinating so late in the mosquito season will be of much value. The mosquito population is already declining and a general frost could occur at any time to finish them off.

Anyone who would like more information on the disease or on the advisability of vaccinating his horse should contact his local veterinarian.

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DETERMINING HARVEST CUSTOM RATES

There are undoubtedly many farmers this year who are wondering what they should pay to have custom harvesting work done and others who are wondering what they should charge for doing it.

Unfortunately, there is no clear cut answer to the question. To come up with a reasonably accurate figure based upon your specific situation you have two choices. One is to use the work sheets in the publication "Customs Rates for Alberta in 1974", available from district agriculturists and the publications office of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

The other is to use Alberta Agriculture's CANFARM "Buying Versus Hiring" program. This free computerized program takes only a day or two to provide the answers to questions on custom charges. The answers are based on information that you provide. All regional farm economists and most district agriculturists can tell you the information you need to use the program.

Another way of arriving at an approximate custom rate that will cover the inflationary costs over the last year is to add 25 to 30 per cent on to the rates quoted in the 1974 custom rates for Alberta publication. Although this may seem like a quick way of solving your problem, it is not nearly as accurate as either of the two methods quoted above.

Bob Rugg, agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture, says custom combine rates should be worked out on the basis of the original cost of the combine, its capacity, proposed hours of work during the season and the crop yield. On this basis custom rates will be found to vary between $5 and $9 an acre. Similarly, swathing charges could range from $1.50 to $2 an acre.

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SWATHING HINTS

"Stage of maturity for swathing barley was one of the interesting points that came out of my tour of the federal research station at Lacombe," says Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler.

Don Dew of the research station's crop management section suggested that barley which is being harvested for feed can be safely swathed with a moisture content of 35 to 36 per cent. Swathing at this stage, according to Mr. Dew, does not reduce either the total yield of the crop or the feed quality. He says he uses the 'thumb rule' rather than the 'firm dough' stage when describing the stage of the kernels because the latter means different things to different people. "When a kernel of barley can be cut with the thumb nail without showing any free water shining on the kernel, the moisture content is 35 per cent," Mr. Dew says.

He also suggested that it is possible, but not yet a proven fact at the research station, that the germination level of grain swathed at the 35 to 36 per cent moisture stage may suffer a little. Hence, he recommends letting seed barley mature a bit past the 35 per cent moisture level until more research has been done in this area. The same recommendation holds true for barley intended for malting purposes.

According to Mr. Gould, the color of the straw in the barley plots that were ready to swath at the 35 per cent moisture level was mostly yellow with a touch of pale green here and there.

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SOWING FRESHLY THRESHED FALL RYE

The level of germination of freshly threshed fall rye mainly depends upon its percentage of dormancy.

Germination tests were conducted at Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge to determine the amount of dormancy in rye seed. The cultivars used were Antelope, Cougar, Frontier, Puma and Kodiak. They were cut at a moisture content of 40 to 45 per cent and hung up to dry outside. No dormancy breaking treatments were applied. Fifty seeds of each cultivar were sown in pots 0, 8, 15, 29, 36 and 98 days after cutting and replicated four times.

According to a report received by Alberta Agriculture, the percentage of seedlings that emerged increased with time after cutting, and a mean of 86.6 per cent emergence was recorded for the second planting date. Under these conditions fall rye had little dormancy. The report also stated that further work is under way to determine whether there are any conditions which promote secondary dormancy.

Since the period between swathing and combining normally exceeds eight days, a farmer who wants to sow freshly threshed fall rye can safely do so. However, the researchers recommend increasing the seeding rate by 10 to 20 per cent if the rye is sown within two weeks of having been swathed.

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DEADLINE FOR HORSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ENTRIES

October 3 is the deadline for entering your horse in the new Alberta Horse Improvement Program. This program is unique in Canada and probably in the whole of North America.

The three-day event will be held on October 17, 18 and 19 at Spruce Meadows, an excellent new equestrian center located about eight miles south of Calgary.

Devised by Alberta Agriculture's Horse Industry Branch, working in conjuction with the Alberta Horse Improvement Committee, the basic principle of the program is to identify superior horses within each breed through an evaluation of their conformation and a performance test. In essence, the theory behind the program is the same as that used in the selection of race horses. Race horses are selected on performance which over the years has proved to be highly correlated with conformation. The ultimate aim is to improve the quality of Alberta bred horses and to establish better markets.

The young horses that participate in the program will be evaluated mainly on the basis of their skeletal and muscular structure as it relates to the athletic function for which they were bred to perform. The three, four and five year olds will be judged, in addition to conformation, on their ability to perform maneuvers that require considerably more athletic ability and training than those expected of the younger animals.

Apart from the brood mare and Stallion classes, only purebred Arabian, Appaloosa and Quarter horses are eligible to participate in the program this year. They must have been born in Alberta and be from a mare owned by an Alberta breeder. All horses entered in the program must be registered and be accompanied by a certificate stating that they have had a negative Coggin's Test within the last six months. This certificate is to protect the horses against exposure to Swamp fever. Since it takes several weeks for veterinarians to get test results back from the Animal Disease Research Institute in Lethbridge, the test should be done immediately.

Following is a list of classes:

Two Year Old Classes

These classes are open to horses that were born between October 31, 1972 and November 1, 1973. They will be judged on the halter for conformation (65 per cent), breed type (25 per cent) and style, disposition, etc (10 per cent).

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Deadline for Horse Improvement Progam Entries (cont'd)

Three Year Old Classes

Horses in these classes will be evaluated on conformation (40 per cent) and performance (60 per cent). During the performance test each animal will be worked through a reining, trail and pleasure riding pattern. Emphasis will be on athletic ability and precision as opposed to speed.

Four and Five Year Old Classes

Horses will be evaluated on conformation (20 per cent) and performance (80 per cent). In these classes the performance test will be more rigorous and the speed with which the activities are performed will be an important consideration.

Brood Mares

Each mare, her foal and another offspring will be shown on the halter. The three animals will be evaluated for conformation, breed type and some other characteristics. The points will be divided in the following ration: mare 25 per cent; foal 35 per cent and other offspring 40 per cent. This class is open to mares of all breeds.

Stallion Classes

The stallion class is open to stallions of any breed that stood at stud in Alberta during the past breeding season. The animal does not have to have been born in Alberta. He will be evaluated on the performance of three of his offspring (one foal and two older animals) shown on the halter. They will be judged for conformation, breed type and other characteristics and their combined scores will determine the placing of the stallion.

Further information and entry forms can be obtained from the Horse Industry Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Room 202, 2003 McKnight Boulevard, N. E. Calgary. The entry fee is $20.

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FARMERS BENEFIT FROM NEW INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Despite the fact that the new 5 per cent investment tax credit, introduced in the 1975 federal budget, is only in its second reading and could be changed somewhat before it becomes law, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has received numerous requests about its likely effects on farmers.

In view of the number of these requests for information, financial management specialist, Len Fullen, has offered the following explanation of the basic principles by which the scheme will work when it becomes law.

The objective of the proposed 5 per cent investment credit against federal income tax is to sustain a high level of investment in new productive facilities. Hence, it will apply to the cost of specified investments in new buildings, machinery and equipment purchased between June 23, 1975 and July 1, 1977.

The credit will be deductible in full against the first $15,000 of federal income tax payable in any one year, plus one-half of the federal tax payable in excess of $15,000. For example, where a farmer acquires a tractor for $20,000, he would be eligible for a 5 per cent credit, or $1,000, which he could apply against his federal tax liability. The cost of the asset to the taxpayer would therefore be reduced by 5 per cent and his rate of return on the investment thereby improved.

The balance of any credit unused in the year that the property is acquired may be carried forward for five years, subject to the same annual limitations.

In the case of buildings, the entire cost will qualify for the credit if the building is commenced between June 23, 1975 and July 1, 1977. In other words, if construction begins before July 1, 1977 and there is no substantial change in the plans and specifications agreed to in writing before that date, construction costs incurred after July 1, 1977 will continue to quality. In the case of buildings already under construction as of June 23, 1975, costs incurred during the following two year period will qualify for the 5 per cent credit.

New cars and trucks are not eligible for the 5 per cent tax credit. However, leased equipment, machinery and buildings will be eligible as long as they are used by the lessee in an eligible business activity such as manufacturing, processing, logging, farming or fishing or the storing of grain.

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Farmers Benefit From New Investment Tax Credit (cont'd)

Since this is a federal tax concession and not a grant or subsidy it is quite possible that a taxpayer will be allowed to deduct from his income, capital cost allowance which is based on the full amount of the capital cost of the investment. On the other hand, it is possible that capital cost allowance would be based on the capital cost of the property minus the amount of the 5 per cent tax credit. The manner in which to handle capital cost allowance will be known only when the proposal becomes law.

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ALBERTA FARM BUSINESS SIMULATOR

Have you heard about Altasim? Altasim is a new computerized farm business simulator (FBS) program that will be used to teach economic principles and skills in farm management decision making in Alberta.

The key to successful farming today is management, and budgeting, analysis and decision making are all very important parts of management. Altasim is designed to give participants practice in these specific areas of farm management.

Developed by Bill Brown, a farm management specialist with Alberta Agriculture, it is designed specifically for Western Canadian farm business conditions and will be used to teach farm management in Canada Manpower courses, a number of provincial colleges and the University of Alberta. There are other FBS programs being used to teach farm management techniques in both Canada and the United States, but Altasim is the first and only one that has been developed specifically for the prairie provinces.

How does Altasim work? All the participants are given a User's Manual which describes a hypothetical farm and sets out rules about what they can and cannot do when managing this farm. The rules tell them that they can grow certain crops or combinations of these crops; that the farm has no livestock but that they can buy certain kinds of livestock up to a specified value; that there is certain machinery on the farm which can be sold for new machinery or can be added to; that they can only borrow up to a specified amount of money and so on.

The type of decisions that the participants have to make are: should the present operation be expanded, should I acquire more land through buying and/or renting; should expansion be in the form of breeding cattle and/or feeder cattle, should I grow high or low risk crops or something in between; what type of land should I grow the different crops on; how much fertilizer should I use; should I take out crop insurance, and should I acquire more machinery either through buying (with or without selling the present complement) or should I hire machinery; and how much money should I borrow, in what form and when?

The User's Manual contains numerous work sheets to help program participants arrive at these decisions. Having arrived at them, the participant then writes them on input forms which are submitted to the computer. The computer prints out a simulated year-end financial report showing how well the participant did financially on the basis of his decisions. This simulated year-end report is used as the basis for his second year decisions. This process can go on for as many simulated years as the instructor feels is beneficial to his students. The average is three years.

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Alberta Farm Business Simulator (cont'd)

Altasim participants usually form management teams and there is usually a great deal of competition among the teams to see who finishes in first place with the highest net worth.

More information on Altasim farm management teaching aids and farm planning tools is available from district agriculturists and from the Farm Business Management Branch, Agriculture Building. 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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EXPERIMENTAL HERBICIDE CONTROLS WILD OATS AND GREEN FOXTAIL

A numbered herbicide, Hoe-23408, controls wild oats and green foxtail very well with no apparent injury to the crop.

This statement was made by Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch who evaluated its effects on these two weeds in a wheat crop during a recent Alberta service board tour.

He reports that between 3/4 and one pound of the experimental herbicide is generally adequate to provide good control of wild oats and green foxtail when applied at the early stage of their growth.

Unfortunately, Hoe-23408 is unlikely to be cleared for commercial use until at least 1978. So far there is no indication of its trade name or of the cost per acre. However, it will probably be competitive with other wild oat control chemicals.

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ALFALFA AS A CASH CROP

Expansion in Alberta's processing industry is providing farmers with one more cash crop alternative.

The acreage of alfalfa and of alfalfa mixtures in the past has been aligned with the forage requirements of the dairy, beef and sheep sectors of the province's livestock industry. However, this situation has now changed. By the end of this year there will be 14 alfalfa processing plants in operation, and there is a possibility of further expansion next year.

The present processing capability of the alfalfa processing industry in Alberta is approximately 200,000 tons. To meet this capacity would require over 100,000 acres of pure alfalfa stands.

Although Alberta has the arable land for greatly increased alfalfa production, the processing industry will have to be prepared to provide growers with a reasonable return if the processors are to attract some of this land away from more traditional crop production.

Assuming Alberta's alfalfa processing industry is willing to pay $25 per ton (dry weight basis) for alfalfa standing in the field, projections suggest that the total net return in most non-irrigated areas of the province would be $116 per acre over a five-year period.

Don Macyk, Alberta Agriculture's special crops analyst, says a net return of this size compares favorably with a five year total net return of $128 per acre from cropping the same land to rapeseed at $5 a bushel, wheat at $3.50 a bushel and barley at $2.00 a bushel,if the land is left fallow for one of the five years.

"The $12 net return difference in favor of grain crops should be offset," he says "by the fact that alfalfa, like other legume crops, improves the condition and productivity of the soil."

Since operating capital requirements are much lower for alfalfa production than for other crops, growing alfalfa for the processing plants lessens the short and intermediate capital requirements. High capacity farm machinery capital requirements are also reduced.

On irrigated land annual net returns from alfalfa grown for the processing plants have been shown to approach $60 per acre on the basis of $30 per ton dry weight. Corn silage, considered to be one of the competing crops from the point of view of returns per acre, would have to attain a storage value of nearly $16 per ton to provide similar net returns per acre.

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September 8, 1975

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ALBERTA FLY CONTROL EXPERIMENT

An experiment carried out at the Alberta Plant Industry Laboratory has shown that a number of common insecticides can be used to kill house flies while they are still in the larval stage.

Under the direction of the head of the laboratory's entomology section, Hugh Philip, the experiment was initiated in an attempt to find a practical way of controlling flies in Alberta feedlots. The feedlots make an ideal breeding area for flies in the early summer because of the difficulty of getting rid of the manure in the spring. Unless control measures are taken, the house fly population in these areas is enormous by the end of the summer.

In addition to sanitation, methods of controlling flies in the past have been aimed at the adult fly. However, they have not proved very satisfactory because there are always new generations of flies on the way before the adults have been eliminated.

The insecticides which Mr. Philip used in his experiment were dimethoate, ronnel, propoxur and the insect growth regulator TH-6040. All four products did an equally effective job of killing the larvae in the treated manure. It was also found that under laboratory conditions the manure remained toxic enough to kill newly introduced larvae for as long as five weeks after it had been sprayed.

Mr. Philip is planning to carry out further tests with TH-6040 to find out whether it will control other insects of significance to agricultural production. The advantage of this product over the commonly used insecticides is that it is specific to insects and is harmless to mammals, fish and birds. It kills the insect by interrupting its life cycle at the pupal stage, thereby preventing the adult from emerging.

In the United States insect growth regulators have been experimentally fed to cattle to control face, horn and house flies in the manure. To date results have been very promising and there have been no apparent side effects to the cattle. Mr. Philip hopes to be able to carry out similar tests here so that results can be evaluated under our climatic conditions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORING WINTER VEGETABLES

Are you planning to store your garden vegetables this winter?

According to Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, Arlene Chesney, carrots, beets, parsnips, turnips and potatoes can all be stored in the average home basement, providing the temperature and humidity level are right. She recommends a temperature of 4° C and, ideally, a humidity level of 70 per cent or higher.

A simple method of controlling the temperature is to use the outside air to cool the storage area. You can bring it in through a vent in the outside wall of the basement. Two ways of increasing the humidity level are to water the floor periodically or to put a shallow container of water with a large surface area on the floor.

It is a good idea to put carrots and parsnips, both of which lose moisture and are inclined to shrink during storage, in perforated polyethylene bags.

Miss Chesney says vegetables like pumpkins and squash need warm, dry conditions. They should be kept at a temperature of 7°to 10° C.

Although ideal storage conditions vary for each type of vegetable, one basement storage area will generally suffice for vegetables that are intended for home use.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

September 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL INPUT MONITORING SERVICE REPORT

A new publication entitled "Agricultural Input Prices, Price Indices and Availability in Alberta" contains the average prices, price indices and average availability during the last year of 39 commonly used agricultural 'input' commodities.

The information was obtained by the Agricultural Input Monitoring service, implemented early last year by Alberta Agriculture working in co-operation with Unifarm, to enab'e farmers to identify price and availability changes and trends. The 39 input commodities were monitored in approximately 45 different centres in the province on the first trading day of each month.

They include: lumber, cement, paint, plastic pipe, barbed wire, tractors, combines, cultivators, balers, double discs, half-ton trucks, purple gasoline, diesel fuel, antifreeze, fertilizers, two herbicides, seed wheat and barley, several livestock and poultry supplements and concentrates, feed barley, hay and farm labor.

In addition to specific figures, the publication contains a price index and an availability graph on each item covered by the monitoring service, thereby enabling the reader to see the overall picture at a glance.

"Agricultural Input Prices, Price Indices and Availability in Alberta" can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI·NEWS

September 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO HARVESTING

Mechanical harvesting injuries result in serious economic losses to many potato growers every year.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch, Peter McCalla, says a large portion of these annual losses could be avoided by a little more care. For example, properly adjusting all conveyor belts and drops on elevator diggers will prevent a lot of bruising which is not always noticeable during harvesting, but may show up after storage. The result can be heavy losses in the form of lower grades and a large proportion of culls.

Mechanical harvesters, now being used to harvest more than 95 per cent of potato crops in most of the important potato producing areas of Alberta, should carry enough soil at least three-quarters of the way up the apron to cushion the potatoes against bruising. If, because the soil is sandy or too dry, the apron does not retain sufficient soil for this purpose, the problem can be alleviated by changing the agitator sprockets to reduce the agitation. An alternative is to substitute idler rollers for the sprockets and reduce the apron speed.

When soil conditions are very dry, irrigating the potato field several days before digging is to start will usually facilitate soil conditions that will provide a satisfactory soil cushion on the apron. In addition to reducing mechanical damage, this practice makes digging easier and quicker.

Vine Killing

If a potato crop is fully mature before it is harvested, the skin on the tubers will be 'set', making skinning and bruising much less likely. When the fall is long and warm, as seems very unlikely this year, it is sometimes desirable to kill potato vines either mechanically or chemically. Although treating the vines should be delayed as long as possible to increase crop yield and quality, it should always be done 10 to 14 days before the potatoes are harvested. This 10 to 14 days is to allow the potato skins to set.

- (cont'd) -

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Potato Harvesting (cont'd)

Storage

It is extremely important that potatoes be properly 'cured' or 'healed over' when they first go into storage. This is accomplished by a relatively high temperature and a high humidity. If the temperature is between 10° and 13° C and the relative humidity is above 90 per cent, the potatoes will develop a new protective skin within a week to 10 days. Curing helps to protect the potatoes against decay-causing organisms and reduces moisture loss.

After having been cured, the potatoes should be held at a temperature of from 4.5° to 7°C and a relative humidity of over 90 per cent. To maintain these conditions, the storage structure must have adequate insulation, good air circulation and humidifying equipment.

Potatoes that have been stored at the above temperatures should always be warmed to a temperature of 7°to 10°C before they are taken out of storage. Storage temperatures are even more critical for potatoes that are going to be processed into chips, than for potatoes processed into other products. Chipping potatoes are commonly reconditioned for two to four weeks at 15.5° to 21° C when they have been stored below 10°C. All potatoes that are going to be processed should be treated with a sprout inhibitor.

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September 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LECTURES

Anyone is welcome to attend two very interesting lectures at the University of Alberta on September 24 and 25.

The September 24 lecture is entitled "Potential Use of Electromagnetic Energy for Insect Control and Seed Treatment". It starts at 10:00 a. m.

The other lecture is called "Effects of Electromagnetic Energy Exposures on Seeds". It starts at 2:00 p. m. on September 25.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the University of Alberta's division of biomedical engineering and applied sciences, both lectures are being given by Dr. Stuart O. Nelson of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's agricultural research service in Lincoln, Nebraska. They will be held in Room 1064 of the Dentistry-Pharmacy Building which is the old Medical Sciences Building on 89th Avenue. Room 1064 is located at the rear of the building.

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September 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRECIPITATION REPORTS GO METRIC

As you all know, weather report precipitation measurements are now being given in millimetres of rain and centimetres of snow. What do these new measurements mean?

The basic unit of length measurement in the metric system is the metre (m). All other measurements are multiples or divisions of the metre by tens:

A millimetre (mm) is 1/1000 metre or .04 inch

A centimetre (cm) is 1/100 metre or .4 inch

A kilometre (km) is 1000 metres or 5/8 of a mile

As with temperatures, we will gradually become accustomed to what the new measurements signify as far as light or heavy rainfalls or snowfalls are concerned.

For example:

50 millimetres (mm) of rain in 20 minutes is a torrential downpour.

100 centimetres (cm) of snow makes a good base for skiing.

Some Canadian records are:

Greatest 24 hour rainfall 489 mm Ucluelet, B. C.

Greatest 24 hour snowfall 112.3 cm Kitimat, B. C.

Greatest yearly precipitation 8122 mm Henderson Lake, B. C.

Greatest monthly snowfall 512.1 cm Kemans Kildala Pass, B. C.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRI·NEWS

September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA ALFALFA PROCESSING PLANTS INSTALLING PROTEIN ANALYZERS

Dr. E. Redshaw testing a sample of alfalfa with the UDY protein analyzer at the Alberta Soils and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton.

Ten of Alberta's 13 alfalfa dehydration processing plants have installed protein analyzers.

The UDY analyzers will enable processors to test samples of alfalfa for the optimum stage of harvesting before a field is cut. They will also mean that the digestible protein level of cubes and pellets can be accurately specified. When necessary a bin of very high protein alfalfa can be blended with a bin of alfalfa with a lower protein content. Finally, the analyzer will make it possible for plants using them to guarantee that tneir products meet the import requirements of any foreign country which orders them.

Earlier this year Alberta Agriculture's Product Development Section arranged to have two protein analyzer models tested by Dr. E. Redshaw of the provincial soils and feed testing laboratory in Edmonton. The UDY SFT model proved simple to operate, fast and accurate when compared with the standard protein tests used by the laboratory

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Alberta Alfalfa Processing Plants Installing Protein Analyzers (cont'd)

Last spring the analyzer was demonstrated to alfalfa processors all of whom were very impressed with its performance. It was also put on display in April at the alfalfa processor's annual convention in Edmonton.

The purchase of 10 machines by Alberta alfalfa processing plants was the culmination of these activities. Alberta Agriculture gave a grant of $500 to each plant that bought a machine to help defray expenses involved in installing it and in providing a technician to operate it. Each machine costs approximately $2,200.

The original demonstration model has been bought by the plant industry division and is located at the soils and feed testing laboratory. It will be used to check the accuracy of the machines that have been installed by the processing plants, for demonstration purposes and for research into such areas as the effects of drying temperatures on the protein level of alfalfa.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DON'T TAKE CHANCES WITH BATS

If you come across a bat which is outside during daylight hours beware!

This warning comes from Dr. H. N. Vance, director of Alberta Agriculture's Veterinary Services Division, who says that any bat found outside during the daytime should be treated as a possible rabies case.

"There is a real risk of contracting rabies infection," he says "if you or your children handle bats." He strongly advises parents to warn their children not to 'play' with bats. At this time of the year, they are particularly prevalent because they are migrating.

If you find a bat outside in daylight, kill it and contact a veterinarian or a wildlife officer immediately. If your child has come in contact with a bat, get in touch with your doctor immediately for advice on whether or not anti-rabies treatement is required.

Dr. Vance reports that during the past three years, seven per cent of bats checked for rabies at the federal laboratory were found to have rabies and that the rate of infection was 11 per cent in those that were submitted during the fall migration period.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT TYPE OF GRAIN DRYER?

What is the best type of grain dryer to buy? Unfortunately, there is no concrete answer to this question. The answer, according to Paul Barlott, systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture, depends upon your crop harvesting system.

"Your dryer," he says, "should be able to dry in 24 hours the damp grain that can be combined in an average day. If your fields are spread over some distance, a portable dryer with a propane fuel supply would probably be your best choice. If, on the other hand, your grain handling system can be centred at the farmstead, an in-bin drying or flow-through system might be your best buy. In essence, the larger your grain operation, the more automatically controlled equipment you can consider."

Grain dryers that are suitable for most Alberta farms fall into the $5,000 to $15,000 price range. Although the cost of operating a dryer depends upon many variables, average operating costs range from 8¢ to 14¢ a bushel. They include labor, fuel and repairs. "Fuel costs, which account for a large proportion of the operating costs, can be reduced by using the dryer in September rather than later in the season," Mr. Barlott says.

He points out that a grain dryer should not be considered merely as an emergency piece of equipment for use in the late fall. It should be considered in the light of advancing your harvest season every year, thereby giving you more time for fall field work.

If you would like more information on grain drying or help in planning, selecting or operating your grain drying system, contact your regional agricultural engineer.

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September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE ON FEED IN SEVEN U. S. STATES DOWN 15 PER CENT

U. S. cattle and calves on feed on August 1 for the slaughter market in the seven states that prepare monthly estimates totalled 5,932,000 head, representing a 15 per cent decline from a year ago.

The seven states referred to in the report received by Alberta Agriculture are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas. The report also states that July placements of cattle and calves on feed in those states totalled 1,141,000, down 13 per cent from July 1974. Placements during the month were below a year earlier in all the states except Arizona.

U. S. fed cattle marketings during July totalled 1,164,000, down 14 per cent from last year. Marketings were below July 1974 in all the states except Colorado and Iowa.

Other disappearance during July, says the report, totalled 51,000 compared with 87,000 in July of last year.

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September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. TIMOTHY SEED CROP FORECAST AT RECORD LOW

This year's U S. timothy seed crop is expected to be only 14.9 million pounds, representing a 36 per cent drop from last year's crop and the lowest since records were started 36 years ago.

The acreage forecast for harvest this year is 82,400 acres, a 42 per cent decrease from last year. According to the U S. Department of Agriculture, this large decline was mainly caused by much of this year's acreage being harvested for hay rather than seed.

The carryover of old-crop seed on June 30 was 12.2 million pounds, the largest since 1971. This total compares with 8 million pounds carried over on the same date a year ago. The initial supply is indicated at 27.2 million pounds -- down 13 per cent from last year's total.

Larry Gareau, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, says the sharp decline in the 1975 timothy seed crop in the United States will not have any immediate effect on seed production here because there is still a world surplus of this seed. However, he predicts that the present trend towards reducing forage seed acreage in favor of other crops will have to be reversed in the not very distant future. "When this happens, ' he says, "there will be a serious forage seed shortage, accompanied by price increases."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROWN NEEDLES ON EVERGREEN TREES

Don't become alarmed if your evergreen tree is turning a reddish brown in the centre. According to Alberta Agriculture's tree specialist, Herman Oosterhuis this is a perfectly normal phenomenon at this time of the year.

Cedar, spruce and pine (especially pine) all drop a certain percentage of their needles in the fall just as deciduous trees drop their leaves. The reddish-brown appearance near the centre of the tree is caused by the needles on the three to six-year old wood losing their color before they drop off. The younger terminal and lateral branch growth is not affected.

Mr. Oosterhuis strongly recommends giving evergreen trees a good watering before the ground freezes. At this time of the year the soil around the roots is usually very dry, particularly in the case of tall trees.

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September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVE YOUR BIG GAME HIDES

Did you know that approximately 100,000 big game animals are shot in Alberta and British Columbia every year and that less than 20 000 of these hides are actually used. The rest are either left in the bush or end up on garbage dumps.

Alberta Agriculture points out that you can do your part in conserving a valuable natural resource, now being wasted, by saving your big game hides. Indian craftsmen depend upon big game hunters to supply the hides from which they get the leather to make clothing, footwear and various other products. At the present time the demand for hides far outstrips the supply.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (craft section) will pay for raw elk, moose, deer, caribou, mule deer and antelope hides. All you have to do is ship your hide (frozen or salted) 'freight collect' to the Indian Craft Training Center, 10116 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton. If you live in Edmonton just drop it off there (downstairs in the building).

For further information call (collect) A. Bromfield at the Craft Training Center or C. A. Moore at the Indian Affairs regional office in Edmonton. Mr. Bromfield's telephone number is 426-2232 and Mr. Moore's number is 425-7179.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNTAIN ASH BERRIES MAKE GOOD JELLY

Many people believe that the red berries on mountain ash trees are very pretty but have no useful purpose.

According to Alberta Agriculture's food and nutrition home economists, this is not the case. Mountain ash berries make a delicious jelly, which, because of its slightly bitter flavor, makes an excellent accompaniment for meat dishes

Here is the way they suggest that you make jelly from mountain ash berries.

Pick the berries when they are ripe -- they are not ripe until the birds start eating them. Then remove the stems and boil them until they are soft. Next mash and strain the juice through a jelly bag. Measure the juice and boil it for 25 minutes before adding one cup of sugar to each cup of juice, stirring the juice as you add the sugar. Now boil the juice until it reaches the jelly stage. Finally, skim the jelly and seal it in hot sterilized jars

If you do not have a jelly thermometer to tell you when the juice has reached the jelly stage, use the sheet test. It entails dipping a cold metal spoon into the boiling jelly and then holding it 12 to 18 inches above the container and out of the steam. Then turn the spoon so that the liquid runs off the edge. If two drops form and run together before dripping off the edge of the spoon as separate drops, the jelly stage has been reached.

Another recipe suggested by the food and nutrition home economists calls for four pounds of mountain ash berries, four pounds of apples and one large sprig of mint. With just enough water to cover them, bring the berries and the apples to the boil in separate containers and let them simmer until they are soft. Then strain them through a jelly bag. Now mix equal quantities of the two types of fruit and add one cup of sugar to each cup of the mixture. Finally, add the sprig of mint. boil the juice until it reaches the jelly stage (usually about 10 minutes) and then seal the jelly in hot sterilized jars.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIME TO PLANT SPRING-FLOWERING BULBS

Although you can plant spring-flowering bulbs anytime from now until the middle of October, it is better to plant them as soon as possible so that their roots become established before freeze up.

"Choose a site that is well drained," says Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, Arlene Chesney, "and that receives full sunlight. Bulbs prefer a soil that is rich in humus but they will grow in almost any type of soil."

Although tulips are the most popular spring-flowering bulbs in this province, perhaps because they are the most hardy of the bulbs that grow here, there is no reason for not growing daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops, grape hyacinths and scillas.

Miss Chesney recommends planting tulips and daffodils at a depth of nine to 10 inches and crocuses, snowdrops, grape hyacinths and scillas at a depth of four to five inches.

She says that spring-flowering bulbs may be left in the ground until they become too crowded after several years. She also points out that you should always allow the foliage to die before you cut it back after the bulbs have bloomed or before you lift the bulbs.

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September 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXTBOOK ON GRAIN HANDLING, MARKETING AND PROCESSING

A 650-page textbook on grain handling and transportation, grain marketing and grain processing has recently been published by the Canadian International Grains Institute in Winnipeg.

The book is the second edition of "Grains and Oilseeds-Handling, Marketing, Processing", published by the institute. It has been completely updated, with new chapters added and some old ones deleted, and is illustrated with numerous pictures, drawings, charts, graphs and maps.

The book contains 28 chapters and is divided into four sections. Section A - Canadian Government Agencies, Section B - Grain Handling and Transportation; Section C - Marketing and Economics and Section D - Technology. Information about many of the organizations involved in these areas and their interrelationships within the industry is included in the book.

Available to the public for $11.50 per copy, it can be obtained from the Canadian International Grains Institute 1000 - 303 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3G7.

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OCT 2 1 1975
ALBERTA

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CROP YEAR BEGINS WITH IMPROVED PRICE PROSPECTS

by Peter Perkins, Marketing Analyst
Alberta Agriculture

Since early July world grain and oilseed markets have staged a sharp reversal of the seven month "bear" market that caused prices to decline from the very high levels of last fall. Prices have recovered some of that lost ground in the past two months, and some market observers are anticipating a repeat of the early season price spirals that have characterized market developments in recent years. A number of fundamental factors have changed since mid-summer, but not sufficiently to warrant the anticipation of record prices again this fall, because the U. S. is reaping a record harvest and is in a position to supply the increased world demand without significantly altering supply availabilities to its regular customers

World Crop Prospects

Since its initial estimate in April, the United States Department of Agriculture's foreign service has made a number of downward revisions to its estimate of the 1975/76 world grain harvest. These revisions were necessary as a succession of poor weather periods caused varying degrees of crop deterioration in many of the world's major producing regions.

The most serious losses occurred in the Soviet Union and Europe. Excessive heat and low moisture caused a rapid deterioration of crop prospects throughout July in the U.S.S.R. Their total harvest is now projected to yield a rather poor 175 million tonnes, some 40 million tonnes short of target and about 10 per cent less than last year, but 20 million tonnes better than the "disastrous" crop of 1972

Crop prospects in Europe also suffered from inclement weather during the summer, with some areas suffering from drought and others from excessive rains. Total European grain production is now expected to be about 10 million tonnes short of last year's record harvest. Lesser damage was experienced in North America, with current prospects still indicating a record harvest, but 12 million tonnes less than earlier optimistic hopes.

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New Crop Year Begins With Improved Price Prospects (cont'd)

Nonetheless, U. S. total grain harvest will far exceed last year's level with a wheat crop 10 million tonnes greater than the previous record harvest and corn production some 25 million tonnes more than last year's rather poor crop. This sharp increase in production has correspondingly increased U. S. export availabilities and the Americans are in a position to supply the large Soviet and East European needs without seriously altering the supply situation in the United States.

These crop losses have been partially offset by continuing good conditions in China and most of Asia and improved prospects for southern hemisphere crops, particularly in Australia and Argentina. The Asian grain and rice crops have fared well this year with India and China both claiming record harvests. Crops from southern hemisphere fields are still in the early stage of development and the final outcome from these regions will depend very much on weather conditions in the next three months.

The Soviet Situation

Perhaps the most important factor that will eventually determine the price farmers receive for their grains this year will be the final outcome of the Soviet harvest, and their continued need to supplement supplies with imported "western" grains.

Earlier this year it was expected that the Soviets would import about 7 million tonnes of grain, since observers felt it was unlikely that target production would be fully achieved. However, the U.S.S.R. has already purchased more than twice that amount. Total confirmed grain purchases since the first sales contracts were announced in mid-July amount to 14.7 million tonnes, comprising 8.3 million tonnes of milling grade wheats and 6.4 million tonnes of feed grains. It is currently anticipated that the Soviet Union will purchase a further 10 million tonnes of grain, bringing their total imports for the year to a massive 25 million tonnes.

Additional purchases by the Soviets will be limited by their port and handling facilities, their ability to pay, and the willingness or ability of those countries which supply the grain to sell. Estimates of Soviet "throughput" facilities suggest their ports can handle approximately two million tonnes of grain a month, thus indicating a ceiling of import capabilities of about 25 million tonnes. Furthermore, large grain purchases from western economies put severe pressure on their balance of payments position with non-communist countries.

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New Crop Year Begins With Improved Price Prospects (cont'd)

Current purchases have apparently been made on a cash basis and the value of these deals would be in excess of $ U. S. 2.5 billion (16 million ounces of gold equivalent). Much of the financing for these purchases appears to have come from gold sales and borrowing on Euro-dollar markets, but some analysts are beginning to question their ability to virtually trade gold for wheat indefinitely. It should be remembered that part of their purchases in 1972 was financed by a $ US 750 million three-year term credit arrangement with the U.S.A. It is doubtful that any country would be willing to extend credit to the Soviets for additional grain purchases under present market and political conditions. It, therefore, seems improbable that the Soviets will buy any more than an additional 10 million tonnes of grain, and even purchases to that amount may not be forthcoming.

A related uncertainty clouding current market prospects has been the threat of union boycotts on the movement of U S grains to the Soviet Union. The recent compromise between the administration and the unions has eased the situation somewhat, but the possibility of additional problems arising in matters regarding the movement of Soviet bought grain out of the U. S. should not be ignored. Holdups with grain shipments to the U.S.S.R. only work to make it more difficult to move the projected 25 million tonnes of imports through Soviet ports in the full crop year.

An encouraging longer term prospect has been President Ford's announcement that he has sent the Under Secretary of State to Moscow for exploratory talks aimed at arranging a more stable grain trading arrangement between the two countries. For the short term, however the temporary stalling of further sales to the U.S.S R. by the American government is tending to dampen prices, and extended delays will likely cause a continued weakening of prices.

The General Economic Environment

The recessionary forces of late 1974 and early 1975 caused a sharp and unexpected decline in the demand for many agricultural products, as food processors in particular, allowed inventories to decline rather than continue to pay the exceptionally high prices of last fall. By mid-1975, however, signs of a general recovery in economic activity were beginning to appear and a corresponding improvement in demand is now anticipated.

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New Crop Year Begins With Improved Price Prospects (cont'd)

The general up-turn in the world economy is predicted to be slow, but as it occurs one could anticipate a revival in demand for many commodities that are in short supply at the wholesale level. This should benefit oilseeds particularly, since factory stocks of edible oils contracted sharply over the past half year or so.

However, it is not anticipated that this will be a strong market force since other counter-balancing forces will be in operation, and it is only the United States and Japan that are presently showing real signs of recovery. Most European economies remain in a depressed state and recovery there is expected to be a much slower process.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE PROSPECTS

Although hog price forecasts are no more than an 'educated' guess at this time, it seems fairly safe to say that they have probably reached their limit at $80 to $85 a hundredweight.

This is the opinion of Jim Dawson, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, who points out that even though there is not enough production increase in sight over the next six months or so to depress prices, there are other factors to consider. These include the likelihood of a plentiful supply of lower-priced beef well into the new year; cautious buying on the part of the consumers and lower seasonal demand during the winter, and the fact that Eastern Canada is coming back into pork production faster than the West. "In view of these factors," says Mr. Dawson, "it would be possible for prices to go back down to the low $70's or even the high $60's.

The latest Iowa Farm Outlook gave a very tentative forecast for 1976 of prices in the high $40 range ($61 to $64 dressed equivalent) for the first half of next year and possibly slightly lower in the last half of the year as some production increase begins to show.

Canadian Supply Prospects

Mr. Dawson says hog producers will be exercising caution in their production decisions until feed grain prospects become clearer even though prices have been attractive throughout the summer. He believes that if the traditional hog cycle is repeated, the upward trend in production should show in late 1975 or early 1976. This increase would reflect breeding decisions made late last spring.

Agriculture Canada has estimated gradings for the six month period from the end of September 1975 to the end of March 1976 will average 160,000 a week, which would be up 20,000 a week from the current quarter. Although this situation would indicate the beginning of the upward trend in hog production, the market volume would still be very low.

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Hog Price Prospects (cont'd)

Allowing for a four month gestation period and six months for feeding, breeding decisions made this fall and winter will determine market volumes for the last half of 1976. Most of these decisions will depend upon barley prices after harvest and on how well grain moves through the market system.

The table for the July hog survey shows that Canadian farrowing intentions for the July-September period are down 9 per cent compared with last year and that farrowings for the April-June period were down 12 per cent.

United States Supply Situation

According to Mr. Dawson, U S. supply prospects appear very similar to those in Canada. The U. S. June hog survey indicated that the number of gilts kept for breeding was down 17 per cent compared with a year ago and that pigs for marketing were down 19 per cent. The December through May pig crop, down 22 per cent, was the lowest since 1935. Farrowing intentions for June through November are down 13 per cent, indicating the smallest fall pig crop in over 20 years!

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREAD PRICE INCREASE

The recent increase in the price of bread has been caused by increases in the cost of almost all the items that are involved in a loaf of bread except its basic ingredient -- wheat!

The cost of all the other items required to produce a loaf of bread, including vegetable oil, sugar, milk powder packaging, distribution,(fuel), and labor have all increased over the past two years (prices of the first two have now moderated somewhat).

On the other hand, the price paid for wheat used in the domestic baking industry was set at $3.25 a bushel by the federal government in September 1973 and has remained at that level, even though this price has sometimes been more than $2.50 below the international price.

"The cost of the wheat that goes into a loaf of bread represents less than 15 per cent of the cost of the loaf or about 6¢ for a 20-ounce loaf," says David Walker, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture. He reports that recent United States Department of Agriculture figures suggest that over 45 per cent of the cost of making wheat into bread and placing the bread on retail shelves is spent on labor.

However, Mr. Walker says the recent increase in the price of bread has stemmed mainly from the higher price of flour. Although the retail price of flour to the consumer has been gradually increasing for sometime, the price paid by the bakeries to millers has not increased since September 1973 until quite recently. The fairly consistent increase in livestock feed prices from 1973 until the beginning of 1975 enabled the millers to offset their own increased costs by higher returns from the sale of such by-products as bran, shorts and middlings, all of which are used for livestock feed. However, this situation no longer holds true since livestock feed prices have been declining since early this year while the millers' labor costs have been increasing.

- (cont'd) -

Bread Price Increase (cont'd)

What about the farmer? In recognition of the fact that it would be unfair to expect him to accept $3.25 a bushel for his wheat when the export price is often considerably higher, the federal government pays the Canadian Wheat Board the difference between $3.25 a bushel and the prevailing international price at the time of sale up to a maximum of $1.75 a bushel. The wheat board then reimburses the farmer by this amount through its price pooling mechanism.

However when the international price of wheat rises above $5 a bushel, the farmer has to bear the loss over and above the $1.75 a bushel subsidy.

The net result of all this is that the bread consumer is in effect being subsidized by the federal government and at times by the farmer as well.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL WEED CONTROL IN ALBERTA

You can get good weed control in a pure stand of alfalfa by spraying it between now and freeze-up, according to Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch.

"Spraying at this time of year," he says, "is often more effective than spraying in the early spring. For one thing, fields are usually fairly dry in the fall with the result that there is less chance of the alfalfa stand being damaged by the spraying equipment. Secondly, the chemicals that can be used now cover a wider spectrum of weeds than those that can be used in the spring because of the danger of crop injury at that time."

Mr. Stearman recommends simazine (Princep 80W) for controlling such broad-leaved weeds as white cockle, sherherd's purse, hoary alyssum and stinkweed at this time of year. For such grassy weeds as young quack grass plants and wild oats he recommends pronamide (Kerb 50W).

Both chemicals should be applied in not less than 30 gallons of water per acre and used only on pure stands of alfalfa. They are not registered for use on alfalfa stands containing alsike or red clover. A lso, they should be used when the temperature is below 15° C but before the ground freezes.

The use of any herbicide always poses some possibility of crop injury and this possibility increases if the crop is under stress during the period that the herbicide is active. Hence, if a severe winter follows a fall herbicide treatment of alfalfa, there is a chance of some crop injury.

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September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Have you thought of extending your non-crop chemical weed control operations until the first killing frost?

Stan Powers of Alberta Agriculture's urban and industrial weed control section says spraying roadsides, rights-of-way, fence lines, railway lines and waste areas after mid-September can be very effective when the proper herbicide is used and it is safe! It is safe because there are no longer any susceptible crops growing adjacent to the area. Also, it is often easier to gain access to areas that need spraying when the fields around them have been harvested.

Mr Powers reports that his staff sprayed patches of Canada thistle along a section of highway last year after the middle of September with varying amounts of Tordon. They found that the four ounce rate provided only partial control, but that the eight ounce and higher rates gave complete control.

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AGRICULTURE WEEK TOURS

Any group who would like a conducted tour of any of the following government research centres or commercial firms can arrange a tour during Agriculture Week, October 6-10, by telephoning the contact person listed below.

Agriculture Canada Research Stations

Beaverlodge: Dr. L. P. S. Spangelo, director, phone: 354-2212

Lacombe: Mr. J. Stothart director.
Mr. W. J. Murray, administrative officer
phone: 782-3316

Lethbridge: Phil Blakeley, information officer,
Dr. J. E. Andrew, director
phone: 327-4561

Provincial Tree Nursery, Oliver

Mr. George Grainger, superintendent,
phone: 799-3351

Alberta Horticultural Research Centre, Brooks

Mrs. Joyce Clark, librarian,
phone: 362-3391

Commercial Firms

Andres Wines (Alberta) Ltd, - Calgary
contact person, Mr. Bill Whimbey, sales representative
address: 7530 Blackfoot Trail, S. E., Calgary
phone: 252-5511

Intercontinental Packers - Red Deer
contact person, Mr. E. R. Coughlan, plant manager
address, Riverside Drive, Red Deer
phone: 347-6621

Lakeside Feeders Ltd. - Brooks
contact person, Mr. Pat Fisher, manager of feed operations
address: Box 800 Brooks
phone: 362-3326

Maple Leaf Mills Ltd. - Calgary
contact person, Mr. Rick Corbett, technical supervisor
address: 1505 - 17 Avenue , S. E. Calgary,
phone: 265-6640

- (cont'd) -

Agriculture Week Tours (cont'd)

Molsons Brewery Alberta Ltd.- Lethbridge
contact person, Mr. Spike Martell, plant host
address: 1st Street and 2nd Avenue, S, Lethbridge
phone: 329-0666

Pinecrest Foods, - Calgary
contact person, Mr. E. Osborne, plant superintendent
address: 2126 Hurst Road, S. E., Calgary
phone: 265-9010

Western Breeders, - Balzac
contact person, Mrs. Wendy Grove
address: Balzac
phone: 274-1555

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

With Alberta's summer agricultural fair season over for another year, it is time to evaluate the success of this year's fairs and to start planning even better ones for next year.

Why do we have fairs? To the early settlers of this province, the annual country fair was the highlight of the year — it brought the neighborhood together for a good time and provided a showcase for the fruits of their long hours of labor. Modern agricultural fairs provide an opportunity for town and country people to get together, thereby enabling them to understand and appreciate each other's problems and concerns.

In addition to displaying the latest machinery, crop varieties, livestock breeds, commercial and non-commercial products one of the main aims of today's fairs is to broaden consumer education through such things as meat grading and marketing displays.

Our modern fairs also reflect the back to nature theme by their fresh farm produce, home preserving, wholesome cookery and recycling exhibits. In addition, they present farmstead beautification awards and provide displays which express environmental concerns.

This year many fairs had sheep shearing contests, sheep dog trials and lamb promotion activities Even International Women's Year was featured at some fairs in the form of a man's cooking section and a woman's plowing match! In keeping with the federal government's nationwide emphasis on physical fitness, this theme was featured at many fairs.

Lillas Brown, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural societies program, suggests getting your agricultural society to start thinking now about new ideas for next year's fair. She also suggests asking yourselves such questions as why do we have a fair and what makes or breaks a fair? "A fair," she says,"is a very effective outlet for any message you may want to get across to the community."

Since agricultural fairs reflect the people in the community and their needs, the best way to get participation in a fair is to involve the community in its organization, administration and activities "Individuality and the continuous interjection of new ideas are the life-blood of any successful fair ' Mrs. Brown says.

AGRI-NEWS

September 22 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILM TAKES FIRST PRIZE

'The Magic of Water', a film produced for Alberta Agriculture, has won a first prize for its excellent quality and information content.

The 25 minute color film on irrigation methods was honored at the annual educational aids awards of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, held this summer at the University of California, Davis.

'The Magic of Water', produced by Edmonton's Century II Motion Pictures Limited, investigates the currently used methods in Alberta's irrigated farmland.

During the drier years in the southern part of the province, applied water can make the difference between successful farming and a subsistence dryland operation.

"If you want to know something about hard times, we've been through them," says a dryland farmer interviewed in the film. "Water's all we need."

Water, called 'the life-blood of agriculture', must be present at the right time and in the right quantities for crops to mature properly. In dry southern Alberta, rain doesn't always arrive when it's needed, and irrigation provides the life-giving moisture instead.

'The Magic of Water' illustrates the need for controlled application of irrigation water and outlines the common systems in use today.

Nearly a million acres, or about 4 per cent of Alberta's arable land, is under some type of irrigation, and irrigation specialists feel an added four million acres could respond to applied water

"Ultimately, we must consider the value of water and the use to which we put it," says Jay Purnell, director of Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division, located at Lethbridge.

"The value of water is encompassed in its use and demand. As the demand for food increases, food production through irrigation will continue to be a high priority."

Copies of 'The Magic of Water' are available on a loan basis from the Alberta Agriculture film library, IB 9718 - 107 Street Edmonton, T5K 2C8. The film may also be purchased through Century II Motion Pictures Limited, 200 - 10244 - 107 Street, Edmonton.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 22 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITION AND FOOD MARKETING SECTION'S APPOINTMENTS

The commissioner of Alberta Agriculture's nutrition and food marketing section, Frances Cullen has announced the appointment of three new staff members to the section's Calgary office.

They are Brenda Strathern, marketing officer, Susan Mitchell, marketing officer, and Tim Adams, graphic artist.

Mrs. Strathern was born in Calgary and is a graduate of the University of Alberta. She obtained her B. Sc. (home economics) in 1971 and worked as a consumer counsellor for the Calgary Co-op from 1973 until her present appointment.

Miss Mitchell was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1971, having specialized in plant science. Following graduation she worked as an information officer for Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division and communications branch. From 1973 until her present appointment, she was a consumer counsellor with the Alberta Cattle Commission.

Mr. Adams was born in Flin Flon, Manitoba, and graduated in 1973 from the Alberta Colloge of Art with a diploma in advanced arts. Prior to his present appointment he worked in the City of Calgary's drafting department and for Conduit and Saunders Graphics in Calgary.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANIMAL DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

The participation in the establishment of a major agricultural research facility for Alberta and Saskatchewan was announced today by Alberta Minister of Agriculture, Marvin Moore.

The Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) will be set up at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Saskatchewan Campus to conduct research into indigenous infectious diseases of food-producing animals.

The cost of facilities and operating the laboratory for the first five years is estimated at $5,000,000. Alberta's contribution to this amount will be a capital construction grant of $1,870,000.

VIDO is a joint project of the University of Saskatchewan, the Devonian Foundation, and the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Each of the founding groups will appoint representatives to a Board of Advisors who will work with the University Governors Committee to direct the planning and organization of VIDO.

Objectives of the new organization are aimed at combating common animal diseases such as foot rot, pinkeye neonatal diarrhea and pneumonias. Although these cause vast economic losses to the livestock industry until now little research has been conducted into their prevention or control.

Mr. Moore says that research undertaken by VIDO will be practical with the aim of translating discoveries in basic sciences into useful applications for the farm. Noting that Alberta has approximately 40 per cent of all livestock in Canada, he expects the new center to be of major benefit to the province's agricultural industry

The research center will be staffed by three research professionals plus visiting and senior scientists, faculty members of various Western Canadian universities, and research teams from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and other faculties of the University of Saskatchewan. Workshops and continuing education courses on livestock disease are also planned by the center.

- (cont'd) -

Animal Disease Research Center (cont'd)

Planning is now underway so that facilities can be constructed next spring. In the meantime, research is commencing in temporary quarters provided by the University of Saskatchewan. This mobile satellite laboratory will, when replaced by the permanent facility, be located in Alberta to extend research in livestock diseases

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September 29 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRANIAN FARMERS CO-OP CONCLUDES ALBERTA VISIT WITH AN INVITATION

A delegation of nine farmers from the Gorgon and Dasht Co-op Corporation in north-eastern Iran concluded a very successful tour of southern Alberta's agricultural establishments with a request for a team of agricultural experts from this province to visit their country later this year.

The agricultural experts will evaluate farming operations in Iran to enable them to assist the Iranians to choose the technological expertise and equipment from Canada, and from Alberta in particular, that will best suit their requirements.

It was after contacting the Iranian Canadian Development Corporation in Tehran, that the group decided to visit Alberta and were extended an invitation by the Alberta Export Agency. This agency and Halgard Venture Analysis Ltd. of Edmonton organized the tour for the delegation, each of whom had paid his own trip to Alberta. Upon their return to Iran they will share their knowledge and impressions with fellow co-operative members. There are 300 farmers in the Gorgon and Dasht Co-op Corporation.

The chairman of the co-op, Hossien Neghabat, said he was amazed at the high degree of mechanization and at the sophisticated level of livestock feeding and management that has been achieved in Alberta. He also said that he felt that Alberta's beef industry is second to none, and that because of its high standard, it warrants further investigation.

When asked what aspects of agriculture in Alberta impressed him most, Mr. Neghabat said it was difficult to identify any one impression. "Irrigation technology," he said, "is certainly advanced here, and my co-operative will be assessing Alberta's capability in this area more closely."

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Iranian Farmers Co-op Concludes Alberta Visit with an Invitation (cont'd)

Mr. Neghabat said that he and the other members of his delegation decided to observe dry-land farming in another country so that they could maximize the agricultural productive capacity of the Gorgon region. While here they spent six days touring garms, manufacturing and processing facilities in the Brooks, Taber, Lethbridge and Calgary areas.

In noting that his imperial Majesty, the Shah of Iran, is encouraging co-operatives to upgrade their livestock industry in his country, Mr. Neghabat stated that the Alberta mission had been most successful. He concluded by saying that the consultations he had had with federal, provincial and private agricultural officials had been most useful and definitely warranted further study. He felt that the mission will result in some long-term relationships developing between Iran and Alberta and expressed gratitude on behalf of the delegation for the excellent hospitality and kindness they had received during their visit.

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September 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAVORABLE WHEAT PRICE PROSPECTS

Wheat price prospects for the 1975-76 crop year have greatly improved in the last two months and now offer the best price prospects, relative to last year, of all grain crops.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing analyst, Peter Perkins, reports that global wheat production is expected to be only 2 per cent higher than it was last year because of unfavorable growing weather in much of the northern hemisphere. "With a modest increase in demand, it is now expected that world wheat stocks will decrease this year instead of building up as was expected earlier this season," he says. In fact, world wheat stocks will remain tight throughout this crop year and are expected to close with a projected record low stock level of only 49.4 million tonnes, representing a 7 per cent decrease compared with the preliminary estimate for the crop year just ended. However, world food supplies will be a little more readily available than they were last year because the world rice crop is expected to be a record 339 million tonnes.

"The sharp deterioration of the Soviet wheat crop and their resultant need to purchase grains from 'Western' sources," says Mr. Perkins, "is providing the major stimulus to wheat prices." Wheat crops in Europe, especially those in the communist bloc, also fared less well than had been anticipated. Although there will be a need for additional imports in these areas, a large proportion of these losses have been offset by the record U. S. wheat crop, currently estimated at over 58 million tonnes. "Almost 10 million tonnes greater than the record 1974 harvest, the U. S. crop will increase export availabilities in that country to the point where they will dampen what might otherwise have been an unprecedented rise in the price of wheat," Mr. Perkins says.

Despite the indicated sharp increase in projected imports by East Europe and the Soviet Union, total world imports are not expected to increase dramatically because of an expected decrease in the demand from China and Asia.

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Favorable Wheat Price Prospects (cont'd)

China is believed to have reaped a record grain harvest this year and is only expected to import wheat that is already committed under long term contracts. A similar situation exists in India which is expected to import only a modest volume of wheat this year.

"The price of wheat, Mr. Perkins says, "will depend to a large extent on sustained demand from the Soviets and other Eastern European countries. If this sustained demand occurs, top grade wheat prices are likely to remain around the $4.50 per bushel mark for a good part of the current crop year. However, there is always the possibility that once Soviet needs have been met, world demand for imported wheat could quickly dry up and prices would work themselves lower. Hence, a great deal will depend upon the timing and quantity of additional Soviet buying and the maintainance of price levels through a reasonably steady demand from other customers." Prices will naturally tend to go higher if crop problems develop later this year in either Australia or Argentina.

Mr. Perkins believes that all these forces auger well for a good realized payment to Canadian wheat producers from the Canadian Wheat Board's 1975-76 pool. At the present time Statistics Canada expects the Canadian wheat crop to reach 595 bushels, an average crop by historical standards, and about 22 per cent greater than last year's very poor crop. Although it seems to be an encouraging increase in production, in actual fact it is only 14 per cent greater than the 'final' estimate for last year's crop. The production increase appears greater because Statistics Canada has just revised the 1974 crop downwards by 34 million bushels

According to Mr. Perkins, the wheat board is no longer offering wheat to all potential buyers because it has already committed virtually all available supplies Canadian wheat and flour exports are currently expected to reach 460 million bushels, up 17 per cent compared with the 1974-75 crop year.

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Favorable Wheat Price Prospects (cont'd)

The Soviet Union has bought 110 million bushels of new crop wheat and another 55 million bushels are committed to China. In addition, 28 million bushels of old crop utility wheat are to be shipped to the Soviets and regular customers traditionally take about 250 million bushels each year. Assuming a normal domestic, farm and seed demand, total disappearance should approach 628 million bushels, which would reduce the level of stocks to 256 million bushels or 12 per cent less than the relatively small carry-over from the 1974-75 season.

The final payment for the 1974-75 crop is estimated to yield farmers about $4.10 per bushel ($4.58 for 1973-74) for top grade red spring wheat basis Thunder Bay. "The final value of the wheat in the 1975-76 pool will of course depend on what Soviet purchases have been or will be priced at," says M. Perkins, "but one should expect the 1975-76 pool to realize a price approaching that expected from the 1974-75 pool or about $4 a bushel."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN PROSPECTS INDICATE LOWER PRICES

Fundamental market forces indicate a downward trend in feed grain prices in the coming months is more likely than a repeat of last season's record high levels, according to Peter Perkins, marketing analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

He says that coarse grain supplies are expected to be more readily available in 1975-76 and that consumption is expected to increase only moderately, thereby allowing a build-up of carryover stocks. In the final analysis, however, the supply and demand picture will depend almost entirely upon the feed grain situation in the United States and the amount of grain they will be willing to sell to the Soviet Union in the coming months.

"The impending near record total feed grain harvest in the United States," says Mr. Perkins, "is expected to continue to put downward pressure on prices, despite the increased demand from the Soviets." Confirmed purchases from Soviet sources to date amount to 6.4 million tonnes of feed grains and it is expected that the Soviets will eventually purchase about 12 million tonnes from current crop year supplies. Most of this grain will be supplied by the Americans who should be able to provide it without drastically changing their domestic supply situation. Twelve million tonnes of corn is equivalent to 470 million bushels and the U. S. is expecting to harvest a corn crop which will be a billion more bushels than last year. Hence, the relative ease with which they will be able to meet such a demand.

However, Mr. Perkins believes that the amount of livestock feeding that occurs, particularly in North America where the largest portion of world feed supplies are used, will be a key determinant of feed grain prices in the coming months.

He also believes that continued speculation about the Soviet situation will keep feed grain prices unstable and sufficiently high to discourage any major attempt at expansion of either the livestock or poultry industry. The relatively high feed costs that have persisted for more than a year have caused a drastic reduction in the demand for grain from the North American livestock sector.

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Feed Grain Prospects Indicate Lower Prices (cont'd)

It is expected that current uncertainty regarding feed grain price prospects will maintain a relatively slow demand for grain and force prices lower after harvest when ample supplies will be available.

Canadian Situation

Statistics Canada estimates an increase of only 5.5 per cent over last year's poor barley harvest. However, despite this less than expected yield, feed grain supplies should be adequate to meet domestic demand, given a modest increase in local needs. Nevertheless, total disappearance of Canadian feed grains are expected to exceed this year's production, causing a decline in stocks from the relatively low level of the crop year just ended by about 27 million bushels in the case of barley and by 15 million bushels in the case of oats.

Mr. Perkins expects Alberta barley prices to be around $2.25 a bushel until the end of harvest and then to gradually decline, averaging out at a little below $2 a bushel. "The actual price received by farmers will depend to a large extent," he says "on the amount buyers are willing to bid over broadcast street prices to ensure the availability of local supplies."

He also anticipates an upward adjustment in the initial price of barley, but expects it to be less than the interim adjustment of last year. "A lower initial price for Canadian Wheat Board sales is justified for two reasons. First, because international prospects do not indicate a return to the high prices of last year, and secondly, because an initial price which is set too high could distort the local off-board market later in the year --- a phenomenon experienced earlier this year but unlikely to be repeated," Mr. Perkins says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED MARKET REMAINS VOLATILE BUT LOWER PRICES EXPECTED

Oilseed prices are expected to fall from current levels, but when and by how much depends upon a number of important developments. This prediction is based on the current world situation with respect to oilseeds, vegetable oils and protein meals and on prospects for a continued increase in supplies.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing analyst, Peter Perkins, reports that the latest U. S. soybean crop estimate indicates a crop of 1,442 million bushels, 17 per cent more than the harvest yield last year and second only to the record croo of 1973. Available supplies of American soybeans will be at a record high however, because the stocks from the last crop year were much higher than those of the 1972-73 crop year. Mr. Perkins points out that this record availability of supplies will be meeting a market that lacks strong demand and which is being continually penetrated by competitively priced supplies of other products.

Total soybean disappearance in the United States is expected to reach about 1,280 million bushels in the 1975-76 marketing year leaving stocks at a remarkably high level of about 380 million bushels, which is approximately 60 million bushels more than the previous record carry-over in 1969.

"Price prospects," Mr. Perkins says, "will depend to some extent upon the ability of farmers to hold supplies and force prices to remain high." U. S. farmers appear to have been reasonably successful in this respect in recent months. However, many analysts now feel that such tight holding policies can no longer maintain prices because of the counterbalancing influences of record supplies and increasing competition from other sources.

The increased competition in the world vegetable oils market will weigh on the oilseed market. Palm oil production is expanding rapidly in southeast Asia and is quickly absorbing a large share of the North American edible oil market, particularly that for shortenings. Brazilian soyoil and African peanut oil are also offering strong competition.

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Oilseed Market Remains Volatile But Lower Prices Expected (cont'd)

The protein meal market does not offer much encouragement for improved oilseed prices either, but this market will hinder the soy complex more than the rapeseed sector, according to Mr. Perkins. No major improvement in the livestock and poultry feeding industries is foreseen, and the demand for meal is projected to increase only moderately from the very low level of last year.

Canadian Rapeseed Situation

Mr. Perkins reports that a Canadian rapeseed crop in excess of 70 million bushels is currently forecast for this year. Total supplies will approach 90 million bushels because carry-over stocks are much higher than had originally been expected following the sharp decline in exports during the last crop year. With new crushing facilities beginning operations this year, it is anticipated that the domestic disappearance of rapeseed will increase sharply to 21 million bushels during the present crop year. The level of exports could also improve during the year, particularly if rumors of revived Japanese interest in Canadian rapeseed and rapeseed products materialize. Mr. Perkins points out, however, that it would be optimistic to expect total rapeseed disappearance to exceed production, and that a further build-up in stocks appears inevitable.

"All these factors," he says, "indicate a general prospect of lower rapeseed prices in a market dominated by sharp fluctuations. Continued speculation in other markets with respect to the Soviet situation will spill over into the oilseed sector and add to the uncertainty that causes wide price variations."

In view of the above situation, it would not be unreasonable to expect rapeseed prices to continue to fluctuate freely in the $5 to $7 per bushel range, but the lower price is likely to be more prevalent as prices decline with post-harvest pressure.

Flax

The total oilseed picture and the general economic conditions are expected to continue to influence flaxseed prices. Although supplies remain tight, it is not expected that the demand will increase sufficiently to exert any strong pressure on available stocks and lower prices can therefore be expected. Mr. Perkins suggests that flax prices are more likely to drop below the $7.50 a bushel level than they are to stay above it.

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September 29 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF STRAW IN WINTER LIVESTOCK RATIONS

Straw is adequate for beef cow winter maintenance rations, provid ng it is properly supplemented with protein, minerals and vitamins.

However, it is important that straw which is going to be used as feed be baled as soon as possible after it has been combined, and that it be stacked immediately after it has been baled. Even a slight amount of rain can cause rapid deterioration and reduce the straw's feeding value.

Although wheat, oat and barley straw all normally contain 70 to 80 per cent of the energy level of good quality hay, the crude protein level is usually only about 4 per cent, and only about a quarter of this 4 per cent can be used by an animal. Hence, the need for additional protein when a ration contains a significant amount of straw. The level of minerals and vitamins is also low in straw.

One of Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionists, Ruth Berg, says that a mature beef cow will normally eat the equivalent in straw of 1 to 1.5 per cent of her body weight. This means that a 1,000-pound cow would eat 10 to 15 pounds a day. "If the straw is supplemented by high protein feeds, the consumption will be higher," Ms. Berg says.

The following rations, based on average feeds, will meet the energy and protein requirements for a 1,000-pound beef cow. However, because they are based on a 1,000-pound cow and on average feeds, they will not apply to all individual situations. "Ideally, all feed should be analyzed to determine its actual feeding value," Ms. Berg says.

The good quality grass hay, the alfalfa hay, the straw and the grain used in each ration has a minimum of 9 per cent crude protein, 16 per cent crude protein, 4 per cent crude protein and 10 per cent crude protein respectively.

- (cont'd) -

The Use of Straw in Winter Livestock Rations (cont'd)

Ration #1: 20 lb. good quality grass hay,
salt, mineral and vitamin supplements added.

Ration #2: 10 lb. straw
13 lb. good quality grass hay
salt, mineral and vitamin supplements added.

Ration #3: 15 lb. straw
7 lb. alfalfa hay
salt, mineral and vitamin supplements added.

Ration #4: 10 lb. straw
6.5 lb. grain
1.25 lb. 32 per cent protein supplement
salt, mineral and vitamin supplements added.

Ms. Berg recommends grinding and thoroughly mixing all the components of the rations to prevent cows from eating the hay or grain and leaving the straw, as sometimes happens.

She also recommends that cattlemen seriously consider incorporating some straw in their cattle rations this winter, particularly if the straw would otherwise go to waste.

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September 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STAFFORD JOINS PRAIRIE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY INSTITUTE IN LETHBRIDGE

Dalton R Stafford has been appointed to the engineering staff of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute's satellite station in Lethbridge.

In making the announcement J. A. Peck, director of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute,said that Mr. Stafford will be working with Ed Wiens who was recently appointed engineer in charge of the station.

Mr. Stafford, a native of Lethbridge, graduated in mechanical engineering from the University of Alberta in 1970. Following graduation he worked as a design engineer for one of the major line farm machinery manufacturers in and as plant maintenance superintendent for a food processing plant in Manitoba. He returned to Alberta in 1973 and has been employed as research development engineer by Noble Cultivators at Nobleford for the past two years.

Mr. Stafford is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers in Alberta.

In addition to its Lethbridge station, the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute is developing a satellite station at Portage La Prairie in Manitoba. The central testing station is at Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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AGRI-NEWS

September 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE GRUB CONTROL

September, October and November are the months in Alberta when beef cattle and non-lactating dairy cows weighing over 300 pounds should be treated with a systemic insecticide for grub control.

Ken Spiller, Alberta Agriculture s livestock supervisor of cattle, points out that with today's high feed costs it is more important than ever to reduce feed requirements by destroying grubs which cause weight losses

As the Canadian Meat Packers Council says, "Warbles are the enemy of the whole cattle and beef industry." In addition to reducing meat and milk production, they damage both carcasses and hides, thereby robbing cattlemen of thousands of dollars both in the feedlot and at market time.

Among the systemics which are approved for use are Ruelene, Neguvon, Epco Tribhlorfon and Co-Ral. With the exception of Co-Ral, systemics cannot be used during December, January or February.

Milking dairy cows should not be treated until next spring and then only with Rotenone powder

Systemic insecticides destroy the small grubs which enter an animal's body after having hatched from eggs laid by the warble or heel fly. The reason that they must be treated between early September and the end of November is that in December they move from the non-vital areas of the body to such vital areas as the spinal cord and the gullet. If they are destroyed in these places they will cause adverse side effects to the animal.

Systemics also give a limited amount of louse control during the winter months.

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AGRI·NEWS

October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE DOES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN INDONESIA

Left to right: Aubrey Sherman, Maria Sherman, Kaljo Pohjakas (back row); Debbie Bratvold, Orlan Bratvold (project manager) and Jean Bratvold.
Front row: Indonesian child, Lillian Pohjakas and Kamala Mahadeva in Denpasar, Indonesia.

Indonesia, with the fifth largest population in the world and in the same position from the point of view of natural resources, is gearing up for an accelerated period of development.

Through a Canadian International Development Agency contract, Alberta Agriculture is involved in the Indonesian planning process which includes a series of regional plans, implementation programs and project proposals. Its specific area of involvement is the 1,500 inhabited outer islands of East Indonesia which comprise 10 per cent of an ocean expanse measuring 1,500 miles by 1,000 miles.

-(cont'd) -

Alberta

Alberta Agriculture Does Regional Development Plan in Indonesia (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture agrologists participating in the project are: Aubrey Sherman, Calgary (range and livestock); Jim Carson, Edmonton (land use); Wilf Cody, Lloydminster (farm management); Dr. S. Mahadeva, Brooks (agronomy) Dr. Ali Mohammad, Edmonton (transportation); Orlan Bratvold, Edmonton (project manager); and Cy McAndrews, Edmonton (project director who returned in August from Indonesia after a year and a half).

University of Alberta participants have been: Dr. Mel Lerohl (economics), who was a year on the project; Prof. J. J. Richter (institutional studies), who spent the past two summers at the project site, and Dr. Roger Morton (geology), who was five months on the project. All three are continuing to contribute input to the development plan from their home base.

Other team participants include: Dr. Helen Abell, Ontario (rural sociologist and socio-economist); Kaljo Pohjakas previously with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Agriculture Canada (water management); Dr. Doug Webster, University of British Columbia (regional planner); and short term consultants Ed Livingston (hydrogeology), Fred Culbert and Heino Krigolson (transportation), all of Vancouver.

Still to join the project are: Sid Lore, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton (livestock); Jim Fenton, Edmonton (marketing); Wayne Anderson, Edmonton, (economics); Dr. Steve Love, University of Alberta (credit); Wally Hanson, Calgary (range and forestry); and Ed Hammond, Department of Transportation (cartographer).

The administrative team members are: Ron Stonehouse and Marie Lier, Alberta Agriculture, from Edmonton and Ponoka respectively. Prof. Len Gertler, University of Waterloo, and a previous Edmonton regional planner, has made an on-site evaluation and counselling review of the project.

The project is scheduled to run until the end of 1976.

October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRODUCERS CAUTIONED ON PIG PNEUMONIA

A newly recognized cause of pneumonia in pigs has been identified in Alberta by Alberta Agriculture's Veterinary Services Laboratory.

The bacterium Hemophilus parahemolyticus causes an extremely severe pneumonia in pigs from two to four months old, says Dr. B. E. Beck, a veterinarian in the laboratory's animal disease section.

Sudden death of the pigs and extensive lung tissue destruction are characteristic of the pneumonia. Dead animals are often found with a bloody froth coming from the nose.

Other pneumonia organisms have usually been associated with poor management conditions: poor ventilation, sanitation and nutrition.

"The new Hemophilus parahemolyticus organism we have identified is different from several standpoints. It seems to occur spontaneously in pig operations which have a good or high level of managment, with proper sanitation and ventilation, and good feeding."

The newly-recognized organism is fairly easily diagnosed in the laboratory, says Dr. Beck, if the animal from which sample tissues are taken hasn't already received antibiotic treatment.

"It's easy to isolate and culture the organisms, and identify them."

However, if traces of antibiotic are present in the tissue, cultures will not grow in the sterile laboratory media.

Treatment and control procedures are not yet completely established, but antibiotic therapy is recommended by Dr. Beck.

"The disease is fairly amenable to treatment, and responds well to most of the antibiotics used at present if instructions are followed."

Recognition of Hemophilus parahemolyticus pneumonia is relatively straightforward for producers.

"The disease can be recognized because it's a sudden outbreak of pneumonia and usually occurs in well-managed hog barns, with no other explantion for the outbreak. Pigs may also be breathing fast and have labored respiration before death."

- (cont'd) -

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"A pig which has had the condition but survives becomes a poor-doing, thin razorback pig."

The Hemophilus parahemolyticus organism which produces a fibrinous pneumonia, is common in continental Europe, but was first recognized in Western Canada in 1971.

Since its first recognition in Alberta in 1974, six cases have been reported from four pig operations.

"Whether it was present before and we didn't recognize it, it's hard to say," says Dr. Beck. "but really this appears to be a new disease in Alberta."

Other pig pneumonias which have affected Alberta herds for years are mostly of the enzootic type, caused by a mycoplasma organism. This type may be spontaneous (caused by its own organism) or it may be secondary and triggered by another bacterial infection. Both are often associated with poor management conditions in the hog operation.

Dr. Beck stresses the importance of contacting a veterinarian if an outbreak of Hemophilus parahemolyticus is suspected. Farmers may be wise if this disease is present to treat the whole hog barn with antibiotic and get rid of the problem, and this can be a costly decision to make without proper diagnosis.

Tissue samples of dead aminals should be submitted through the veterinarian to the Veterinary Services Laboratory for final confirmation of the condition.

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October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING ACID SOILS

The establishment over the past two years of the two alfalfa dehydrating plants in the Falher area of northern Alberta has resulted in an increased awareness of soil acidity problems.

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, reports that his branch has received numerous reports and enquiries over the last two years from farmers who are encountering problems in getting a good stand of alfalfa established, and, in some cases, in getting a good yield from a stand after it has been established.

Preliminary investigations into the causes of the problems by both Mr. Gareau and soils specialist Doug Penney, revealed that most soils around Falher have a tendency towards acidity even when in the virgin state. While the pH level at the time the land was broken may have been high enough for the satisfactory production of most crops, it was definitely borderline, and, in many cases, below borderline for alfalfa crops. Also, soils become more acid with continued and intensive cropping.

Legume crops, and especially alfalfa, have a low tolerance for soil acidity, but cereal and oilseed crops vary greatly in their tolerance level. Oats, for example, are very acid tolerant, while wheat and rapeseed are moderately tolerant. Barley is the least tolerant, and its tolerance varies with different varieties.

The highest incidence of acid soils in Alberta is in the Peace River region and in the central part of the province. A soil is acid when the pH value is below 7.0 and alkaline when it is above 7.0. Although 7.0 is actually neutral, in practice soils which have a pH between 6.5 and 7.5 are considered neutral. Thirty-one per cent of the cultivated soils in the Peace River area have a pH below 6.1, and about 15 per cent of the soils in central Alberta have a pH below this figure. Alfalfa will not grow well on these soils

- (cont'd) -

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Farming Acid Soils (cont d)

There are two main ways of contending with acid soils. One is to grow acid tolerant crops, and the other is to lime the soil. It is also possible to use both methods on the same farm. However, a person who wants to get an economic return from alfalfa grown on acid land has no alternative but to lime. An application of nitrogen fertilizer may provide temporary improvement in crop growth, but the use of a nitrogen fertilizer on a legume crop is not economically sound, and will, in the long run, only aggravate the acidity problem. Nitrogen fixing by legumes, and, in some cases, absorption of carbon dioxide from the air, can cause an increase in soil acidity. On the other hand, an application of phosphorous to soil deficient in this element will give a very significant yield response, particularly after the acidity problem has been corrected.

With lime costing in the neighborhood of $20 a ton, the initial cost of liming a field will be relatively high. Two tons of lime per acre is a common application rate. However, one application will last for 10 years or more, and the amount of lime needed to restore the soil to the desired pH level will be less in subsequent applications. Fall is the best time to apply lime because there is less rush than in the spring and fields are usually dry at this time of year.

"There is no alternative in the long run to liming acid soils," Mr. Gareau says. " Productivity can be improved on a short-term basis by growing more acid tolerant crops, but acid soils will ultimately have to be limed or abandoned."

The only sure way of finding out whether soils are acidic is to have them analyzed. A farmer in an area of predominantly acid soils can have neutral soil, and pockets of acid soil can occur in a neutral soil area.

The Alberta Soils and Feed Testing Laboratory analyzes soil samples for a nominal fee of $2, and all district agriculturists have soil sampling kits and information on how to use them.

(cont'd) -

Farming Acid Soils (cont'd)

Detailed information on acid soil problems and their correction is contained in the publication "Farming Acid Soils in Alberta and British Columbia". It is available from all district agriculturist offices and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER IS SOIL SAMPLING MONTH

The Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory's revised computer program provides more information than was available in the past to help farmers choose economical fertilizer rates.

In addition to telling you how much nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients to apply, the computer analysis will show you how much of a yield increase you can expect to get from the application of various levels of nitrogen. With this information you will be able to determine whether it is economical to apply nitrogen above a certain level.

Other important analyses carried out at the laboratory on each sample identify such things as the presence of soluble salts, free lime, acid or alkaline conditions, soil texture and organic matter levels.

You can get all this scientific information for a cost of only $2 a sample. Your district agriculturist has soil sampling kits and information sheets which will tell you how to sample your fields correctly.

Send your soil samples to the Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, O S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

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October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEE WINTERING ASSISTANCE CONTINUED

Alberta's bee wintering assistance program is "go" again for this year.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, provincial apiarist, reports that assistance will be given on a maximum of 100 colonies and that an initial grant of $5 will be paid on each colony that is approved for wintering by a bee inspector.

In addition to the initial $5 grant, the government will pay $10 on every colony that comes through the winter in good enough condition to be capable of forming a productive unit by the time of the main honey flow. In Alberta the main honey flow is in July

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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AGRI·NEWS

October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's extension director, J. G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of Al Reimer to the position of regional director for the Calgary area. He replaces Morley Douglas who was appointed last summer to the position of assistant deputy minister of production.

Mr. Reimer, who is presently regional director at Fairview, will transfer to the Calgary regional office on February 1, 1976. In the meantime, A. Douglas McKenzie, district agriculturist at Calgary, will continue to act as regional director for that region until Mr. Reimer assumes full-time duties at Calgary.

A native of Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Mr. Reimer received his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1955. Following graduation he farmed and operated a commercial hatchery at Kindersley until coming to Alberta in 1964, at which time he was appointed assistant district agriculturist at Calgary. He later became district agriculturist for the Calgary district, a position he held until 1972 when he was promoted to regional director for the Fairview area.

During the past winter Mr. Reimer completed the Banff school of advanced management training program, and, with his regional staff, spearheaded the drafting of a major Peace River regional development plan.

As regional director for the Calgary area, Mr. Reimer will be responsible for directing the extension division's district agriculturists' and district home economists' services and programs in that region and for co-ordinating Alberta Agriculture's regional specialists' resource support for agricultural activities throughout the region.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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October 6, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

John G. Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division, has announced the appointments of three assistant district agriculturists to the Lethbridge, Hanna and Grande Prairie offices. They are David LePine, David Pilling and David Thompson.

David LePine was born in Toronto, Ontario, and graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of British Columbia in 1975. He is presently training under Murray McLelland, district agriculturist at Lethbridge.

David Pilling was born in Picture Butte, Alberta, and graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from Brigham Young University in 1975. He is presently training under John Portail, district agriculturist at Hanna.

David Thompson was born at Hythe, Alberta, and graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1973. He is presently training under Joe Cacka, district agriculturist at Grande Prairie.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

Agriculture Week, (throughout Alberta) . . . . . October 6 - 10

Meeting of Heads of Agricultural Educatior al Institutions & Programs
Guelph, Ontario . . . . . October 9 - 12

The Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO)
Victoria, British Columbia. . . . . October 20

Alberta Country Vacations Association Annual Meeting & Convention
Red Deer Inn, Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . October 24 & 25

Canadian Bankers' Association Agricultural Conference
Hotel Toronto, Toronto Ontario . . . . . October 27 & 28

Alberta Pinzgauer Association Board Meeting & Sale
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 28

Semi-Annual Meeting Canada Grains Council
Royal York Hotel, Toronto Ontario. . . . . October 29 & 30

Western Seedmen's Association - Annual Convention
Crown Centre Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. . . . . November 1 - 4

Women of Unifarm Annual Convention
Summit Hotel, Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 5 & 6

Alberta Beekeepers Association Annual Convention
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 7

Farmfair 1975
Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 6 - 15

Alberta Simmental Association Annual Meeting
Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 7

Saskatoon Winter Fair, Saskachimo Exposition Ltd.
Administration Building, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 14 - 17

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
The Coliseum, Exhibition Park, Toronto, Ontario. . . . . November 14 - 22

Canadian Simmental Association Annual Meeting
Stampede Grounds, Calgary, Alberta . . . . . Nove mber 17 - 19

Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Fall Convention
Hotel Macdonald, Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . November 18 - 21

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
COMMUNICATIONS

Alberta Salers Association Board Meetings & Sale
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 19

Sheep Symposium (U of A Extension)
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 21

Alberta Potato Growers Association Annual Meeting
El Rancho Motor Hotel, Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 20

Alberta Potato Commission Annual Meeting
El Rancho Motor Hotel, Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 21

Canadian Farm Writers Federation Annual Meeting
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 21 - 23

Canadian Western Agribition
Agribition Building, Exhibition Grounds, Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 22 - 28

Canadian Honey Council Annual Convention
Chateau Frontenac Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec . . . . . November 25 - 28

North American Chemical Conference
Mexico City, Mexico . . . . . November 30 - December 5

Cattlemen's Short Course (U of A Extension)
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . December 1 - 5

Canada Weed Committee, Western Section
Sheraton-Landmark, Vancouver, British Columbia . . . . . December 2 - 5

Alberta Hereford Association Annual Meetings
Grande Prairie, Alberta . . . . . December 8 & 9

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . December 8 - 12

National Farmers Union Convention
Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . December 8 - 12

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Annual Meeting
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . December 10

1976

Palliser Wheat Growers Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 6 - 8

Westen Agricultural Conference
Regina Inn, Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 15 & 16

Alberta Pork Seminar (U of A Extension)
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 21 - 23

- cont'd -

Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Meeting
Hotel Macdonald, Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . February 2 - 4

Canadian Blonde D'Aquitaine Association Board Meetings & Sale
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 3

Annual Meeting Weed Science Society of America
Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colorado. . . . . February 3 - 5

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting
Quebec City, Quebec. . . . . February 6 & 7

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia . . . . . February 9 - 12

Canadian Hereford Association Annual Meetings
Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . February 11 - 13

Agricultural Policy Issues Conference (U of A Extension)
Banff, Alberta . . . . . February 22 - 27

Canadian Gelbvieh Association Board Meetings & Sale
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 28

Ag-Expo
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . March 3 - 6

Alberta Horticultural Association Annual Meeting
Olds College, Olds, Alberta . . . . . March 5 & 6

Alberta Polled Hereford Club Annual Show, Sale and Meeting
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . March 15

Canadian Western Stock Show and Sale
Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 20 - 27

Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Spring Convention
Not Known . . . . . April 1

World Charolais Federation
Johannesburg, South Africa. . . . . April 27 - May 1

Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs
Charlottetown, P. E. I. . . . . Early June/76

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
Charlottetown, P. E. I. June/76

Alberta Institute of Agrologists Annual Convention
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . June 4 & 5

- cont'd -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
Banff, Alberta . . . . . June 5 - 12

American Co-op Educators Institute
Banff, Alberta . . . . . June 17 - 20

Federated Women's Institute of Canada Annual Meeting
University of P. E. I. . . . . June 20 - 26

American Society of Agricultural Engineers
University of Nebraska, ... June 27 - 30

7th International Sunflower Conference
Krasnodar, U.S.S.R. . . . . June 27 - July 3

7th World Hereford Conference
Banff, Alberta . . . . . June 28 - July 2

Co-operative Union of Canada Annual Meeting
Quebec City, Quebec. . . . . June 29 - July 3

Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering
Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia . . . . . July 4 - 8

Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Meeting
Halifax, Nova Scotia . . . . . July 4 - 8

International Hereford Show
Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Grounds, Calgary, Alberta. . . . . July 8 & 9

First International Symposium, Feed Composition, Animal Nutrient Requirements,
and Computerization of Diets
Utah State University, Logan, Utah. . . . . July 11 - 16

Canadian Home Economics Association Convention
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . July 15 - 17

International Federation of Home Economics Congress
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . July 19 - 23

10th International Course on Vocational Education & Teaching in Agriculture
Gwatt & Zollihofen, Switzerland. . . . . July 29 - August 27

Dewberry Agricultural Society Mini-Fair
Dewberry, Alberta. . . . . August 18

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AGRI-NEWS

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAMAICAN 4-H CLUBS

by Diana Rodney Alberta Agriculture

What a wonderful idea! That is the way Jamaica'a 4-H club secretary manager, E A. Fletcher, greeted my suggestion that he might be interested in an exchange of information between our 4-H organization in Alberta and his organization in Jamaica.

I met Mr. Fletcher, a charming and dedicted Jamaican, while in that country this summer with Project Antilles, a CUSO-type project sponsored by Western Action for World Development. Western Action for World Development is an organization whose aim is to promote more understanding between developed and developing nations through shared experiences.

A Jamaican 4-H member and his first prize sheep.

The 4-H movement in Jamaica sees itself as a vehicle for providing opportunities for young people to develop to their utmost usefulness and ability. At the present time 45 per cent of Jamaica's population is under 15 years of age. The 4-H organization also seeks to give meaning and purpose to education by striving to relate training to occupational goals.

4-H clubs were first organized in Jamaica in April 1940 under the auspices of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Since then it has come under the Ministry of Agriculture and is now under the Ministry of Youth and Community Development.

The early pioneers of 4-H in Jamaica saw the need for making rural life more attractive, the desirability of teaching new agricultural methods and knowledge and the necessity of developing rural youth with character and a sense of civic responsibility.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Jamaican 4-H Clubs (cont'd)

Since the farmers of that time were not too enthusiastic about adopting new methods in agriculture, it was felt that the development of 4-H clubs would facilitate an opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of using scientifically proven agricultural methods and management. Experience during the years has proved the value of this approach to agricultural education many times over.

As in other countries the project method of teaching is used in Jamaica. Among the most popular projects are animal rearing - heifers, goats, pigs, rabbits, poultry, etc.; crop-growing and plant propagation; vegetable growing; farm mechanics - driving and servicing the tractor, plumbing etc.; community service; and crafts - straw and woodwork etc.

To fulfill the specific needs of Jamaica's rural population the 4-H program in that country has been divided into five distinct units.

Pre-vocational Development

Emphasis in this section is placed on social roles, personal independence, hobby arts, career guidance, leisure education, citizenship education, leadership development, money management and a wholesome attitude to work and personal goals. These objectives are met through club meetings, tours, project work, counselling camps, short courses, literature, group discussions and non-residential training sessions.

Vocational Development

In this section the emphasis is placed on off-farm occupations. They include jobs in the industrial arts; farm machinery operators; dairy aids; motor mechanics; vegetable growers; beef farm aids; small animal farmers; carpenters and a wide range of home making and cottage industry occupations. These objectives are met through 40-week residential courses and field trips.

Post Vocational Development

This section covers supervised credit, apprentice farmers, research, marketing, demonstration plots and self-employment. The requirements are met through government schemes, the national 4-H foundation and self-help programs.

- (cont'd) -

Jamaican 4-H Clubs (cont'd)

Community Projects Development

This section covers things like environmental beautification, community nutrition and health, fund raising, emergency organizations, recreation and anything else which involves the individual in his community.

Commercial Production Development

Projects under this section are designed to teach the economics of farming and are funded out of the national 4-H budget and by private donations.

The Jamaican 4-H organization also has a centre in Kingston where crafts are collected from country points and either sold there or sent to tourist centres like Montego Bay.

The Jamaican 4-H movement also operates 11 vocational training centres where the students spend a year acquiring the practical skills of carpentry, running farm machinery, dairying, livestock husbandry, veterinary work and the type of cooperative management used on co-op farms. The girls learn household science and skills required for such occupations as short-order cooks.

At the present time Jamaica has 600 4-H clubs across the island and a membership of 32,000 which is expected to reach about 40,000 by next year. Approximately 60 per cent of the membership is girls and most of the leaders are women. The reason for the preponderance of females is the fact that most boys in Jamaica try to get a job when they are 15 or 16 and most of the original 4-H leaders were teachers, the majority of whom were women. However, the trend over the last two or three years has been towards community clubs run by housewives, farmers and agricultural technicians. As housing patterns in Jamaica change (the government is building blocks of houses all over the island) this trend is likely to continue until most 4-H clubs in Jamaica will be community clubs.

Although the largest proportion of 4-H members naturally come from rural areas, there is, nevertheless, a substantial number from cities like Kingston and Montego Bay. About three-quarters of them come from a middle class background with the remainder coming from the low income group.

- (cont'd) -

Jamaican 4-H Clubs (cont d)

Their ages range all the way from 9 to 25. The reason they can remain 4-H members until they are 25 is that they have to be 21 before they are eligible for a loan or grant to do post-vocational work. Some of these grants and loans are given by the 4-H organization which also recommends its members for bank loans. During this post-vocational period, the 4-H organization gives its members technical advice and supervises their projects to try to ensure their success. It also places students on its two apprenticeship farms to prepare them for a career in the agricultural industry .

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

27-2127

October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NO EFFECT FROM DOWNWARD REVISION OF SOVIET CROP PROSPECTS

Recent reports of a further downward revision of the Soviet Union's 1975 crop is not expected to have much effect on wheat and feed grain prices.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, David Walker, explains that the market had anticipated that the Soviets would purchase up to 10 million tonnes of grain in addition to their current commitments before this most recent downward revision. As this would be the maximum volume their ports would be able to handle during the current crop year, further purchases could not occur. "This latest reduction and any further reductions in production will have to be off-set by a decrease in feed grain consumption, which may be possible only through livestock slaughter," Mr. Walker says.

It was apparent during the summer that the Soviet crop was going to be sufficiently short to necessitate international grain purchases up to the full capacity of their ports. While their fall seeded wheat came through the winter well and spring seeding conditions were reported to be good, subsequent drought conditions in different parts of the Soviet Union had reduced production expectations in mid-summer by 40 million tonnes. Soviet production plans had called for a crop of about 215 million tonnes of wheat, feed grains and miscellaneous grains.

The result of this situation was that the Soviets made substantial purchases of wheat and feed grains from Canada, the United States and Australia as early as July and August.

Although the U. S. moratorium on grain sales to the Soviet Union limited these purchases, that country will, undoubtedly, purchase further grain from the United States if and when the moratorium is lifted. The moratorium was imposed in the middle of August because the United States was concerned about the size of the American crop, which was beginning to deteriorate from drought, and because of the possible impact the Soviet purchases might have on grain prices and future food prices in the U. S.

- (cont'd) -

Phone (403) 427 2127

No Effect From Downward Revision of Soviet Crop Prospects (cont'd)

Mr. Walker says that the Canadian Wheat Board has sold 3.75 million tonnes or about 140 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union since July. It has now withdrawn from the market to assess this year's crop prospects and the requirements of its regular customers.

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA SOON ABLE TO PROCESS ENTIRE RAPESEED PRODUCTION

Alberta's third new rapeseed crushing plant, recently commenced in the municipal district of Sturgeon, will ensure that this province has the ability to crush its total rapeseed production for many years to come.

Alberta Agriculture's processing specialist, Allan Hayman, points out that commencement of this latest plant brings to three the number of new rapeseed crushing plants now under construction. When they are in , Alberta will be in a position to sell edible oil and rapeseed meal on world markets instead of exporting unprocessed rapeseed as is being done at the present time. "This situation," Mr. Hayman says, "will be in line with the provincial government's policy of processing in Alberta as large a proportion as possible of our raw agricultural products."

The municipal district of Sturgeon plant, to be known as Alberta Food Products and located across the river from Fort Saskatchewan, will be jointly owned by the Alberta Wheat Pool (60 per cent) and Japan Alberta Oil Mills Ltd. (40 per cent). It will have a crushing capacity of 600 metric tons per day and is expected to employ 60 people. The target date for completion is the end of 1976 or early 1977.

United Oil Seed Products Ltd. in Lloydminster will be the first of Alberta's three new rapeseed crushing plants to come on stream. The target date is the end of 1975. This plant is owned by a consortium made up of the United Grain Growers Ltd., B. C. Packers of Canada, Mitzubishi Canada Ltd. and Nisshin Oil Mills Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan, and has a rated capacity of 600 metric tons per day.

The third plant, Northern Alberta Rapeseed Producers Co-operative at Sexsmith in the Peace River region, also has a rated capacity of 600 metric tons per day. It is owned in partnership with an East German group called Euro-Cana Trade Ltd., and is expected to go into production about the middle of next year.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

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Alberta Soon Able to Process Entire Rapeseed Production (cont'd)

Up to now, Alberta has had only one rapeseed plant, Canbra Foods Ltd. in Lethbridge, a division of Burns Foods Ltd. This fully integrated crushing, refining and manufacturing plant has been in operation for about 10 years. It manufactures shortening, margarine and salad oils and has a rated capacity of approximately 1,000 metric tons per day.

The province also has a pilot plant at Camrose called Agriplast Ltd. which is producing polyols for the production of polyurethane from rapeseed oil. Polyurethane is a plastic material used in the manufacturing of carpet underlays, insulation, synthetic wood moldings and a variety of other products.

In the past decade rapeseed production in Canada has experienced tremendous growth in response to increasing world demand for edible oils and high protein feed supplements. The result has been that rapeseed is now firmly established as Canada's third most valuable grain crop after wheat and barley.

The four largest world producers of rapeseed are India, Canada, China and France. Collectively they account for almost 70 per cent of world production. In terms of world exports, however, Canada accounts for 65 per cent and France for only 15 per cent of world trade.

Japan is Canada's most important export market for rapeseed. In the 1974-75 crop-year approximately 85 per cent of Canadian rapeseed exports went to Japan.

It is expected that the new low erucic acid rapeseed (LEAR) varieties and the licensing of the 'double-zero' varieties (very low in erucic acid and low glucosinolates in the meal) will make rapeseed products much more competitive with other oilseeds in the years ahead.

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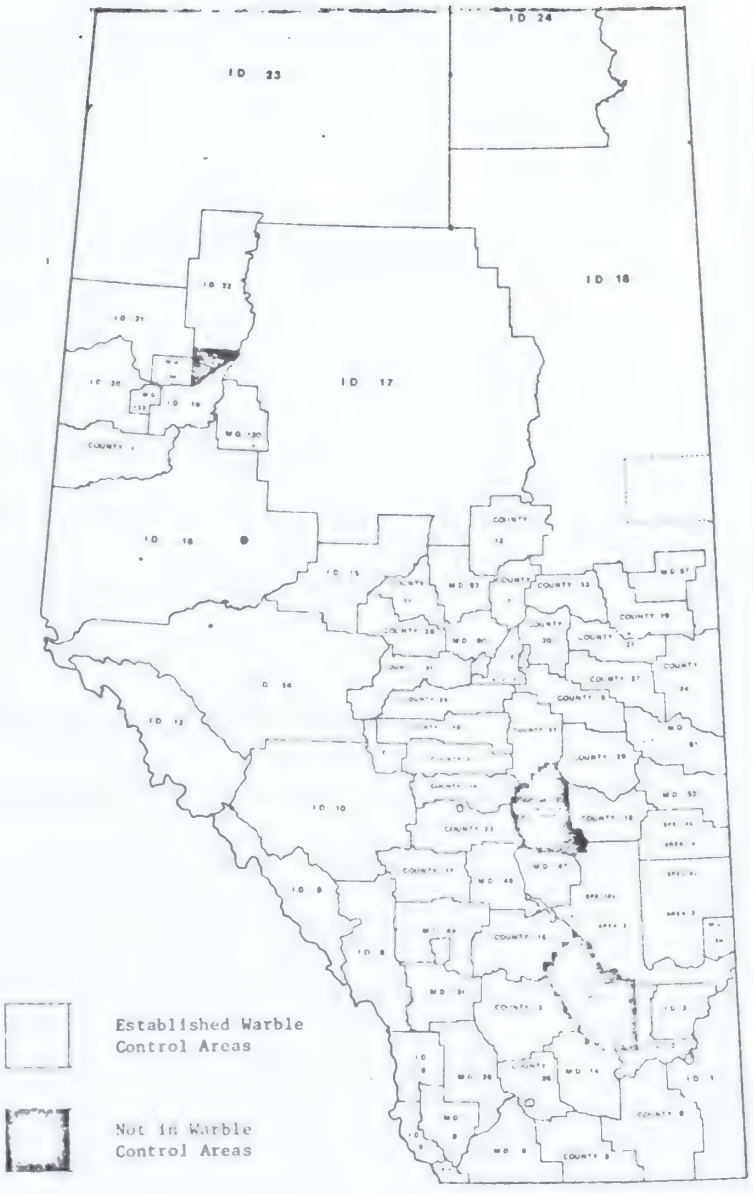
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE GRUB CONTROL REGULATIONS

All Alberta cattle sold in auction markets and terminal yards next spring will be inspected for warble grubs. Those that are found to have grubs will be treated and the cost of treatment charged to the owner.

The new Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, passed last spring, declared the warble fly a pest in the whole province. However, three districts were allowed to remain outside the provincial regulations which made warble control treatment mandatory. This means that, at the present time, 94 per cent of Alberta cattle are under warble control. Even in the three districts which are exempt, there are a fairly large number of cattle being treated annually.



Ken Spiller, Alberta Agriculture's livestock supervisor, points out that farmers will be much further ahead financially to treat their own cattle than to have them treated at an auction market or terminal yard. Charges for this treatment will be considerably higher than the cost of farm treating.

Mr. Spiller reports that inspection results of all cattle sold through Alberta auction markets and terminal yards last spring showed that approximately 95 per cent of the cattle handled by these facilities were free of warble grubs.

- (cont'd) -

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Warble Grub Control Regulations (cont'd)

Unfortunately, this figure is not quite as encouraging as it looks. A study of the results on a regional basis showed that the proportion of cattle treated varied from a high of 98.5 per cent in some areas to as low as 80 per cent in others. "This situation," says Mr. Spiller, "indicates that beef and dairy producers need to treat their cattle every year. Now is the time to treat both beef cattle and non-milking dairy animals."

In most parts of the province, November 30 is the deadline for treating with a systemic insecticide except for Co-Ral. However, because of the milder climate and more advanced development of the warble fly larvae, October 31 is the deadline in the south-eastern part of Alberta (south of Highway #1 and east of Highway #2). The reason that treatment should not be carried out after these deadlines is that the larvae will have reached such vital areas of the animal as its gullet and spinal column. Killing them in these areas can cause problems.

"Alberta has been a leader in warble control across Canada for the last six years," says Mr. Spiller, "and results are being closely watched by the other provinces. Now that we are so close to erradicating warble grubs in our cattle, everyone should make a concerted effort to finish the job."

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOOSE AND DEER LEGS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

The University of Alberta's Entomology department requests the assistance of moose and mule deer hunters in a research project.

According to Dr. Samuel, he and his staff are collecting information on a parasite called legworm which is found in moose and mule deer. It cannot infect human beings and has absolutely no affect on the edibility of the meat. It lives under the skin (not in the meat) and is usually found in the lower part of the legs.

The research workers are interested in this parasite because they are studying the black fly problem in moose and think that there may be some connection between it and the flies.

Since the parasite lives in the lower part of the legs, the scientists would like the portion below the knees and hocks of all four legs. They would also like the head and hide if these parts are not wanted.

They are particularly interested in moose and mule deer taken from Big Game Zones 1, 3 and 5, but animals taken from other areas would also be welcome. The specimens should be as fresh as possible. They can be used even if they have been frozen.

If you would like to contribute to this research project by donating legs of moose or mule deer, please contact David Pledger, Department of Entomology, University of Alberta, Edmonton. (Telephone 432-4737).

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL SHEEP SYMPOSIUM

A national sheep symposium is scheduled to be held in co-operation with the Canada Sheep Marketing Council at the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer from the evening of November 18 to 21 inclusive.

Truly international in content, the program will feature such speakers as Jack Thompson of the Redsdale Experimental Husbandry Farm in England who will talk about English sheep raising practices. Other speakers will discuss sheep raising in Rhodesia, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition there will be local sheepmen from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta who will discuss their sheep enterprises. This section of the program will include round table discussions for both beginning and advanced sheep producers.

A panel discussion is also planned to enable sheepmen to discuss financing their sheep operations with federal, provincial and private lending agencies.

Wool Handicraft School

A wool handicraft school, conducted by Mary Bressers of Calgary, is to be held in conjunction with the national sheep symposium. It will cover all aspects of working with raw wool, spinning and weaving. Mrs. Bressers and Hector Elliot of Calgary will also be holding classes in tanning leather.

For registration forms for the symposium, for further information on the program and for information on the wool handicraft school contact Dr. John Taylor, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone number 427-5077).

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR BARRHEAD

Kenneth J. Eshpeter has been appointed regional livestock supervisor at Barrhead. His appointment was announced by W. C. Gordon, director of Alberta Agriculture's Animal Industry Division.

Mr. Eshpeter will be responsible for conducting and co-ordinating a livestock extension program in co-operation with district agriculturists in the north-west region of the province. His headquarters will be in Barrhead.

Born and raised on a mixed beef and grain farm in the Strome district, Mr. Eshpeter attended the University of Alberta. He graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1971 having majored in animal science and economics.

After graduation, he worked for a short time as an assistant 4-H specialist. Early in 1972 he joined Alberta Agriculture and became district agriculturist at Fairview, where he remained until his present appointment.

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October 13, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAKAGAWA APPOINTED TO THE PRAIRIE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY INSTITUTE IN LETHBRIDGE

The appointment of Ted T. Nakagawa to the positior. of test engineer with the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute at Lethbridge was announced recently by J. A. Peck, director of the institute.

Mr. Nakagawa will be working with Ed Wiens who is the engineer in charge of the Lethbridge station.

Mr. Nakagawa was born in Raymond, Alberta, and grew up on the family farm which specialized in sugar beets. He took his initial training in aeronautical engineering at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1958.

From 1959 to 1974 Mr. Nakagawa was employed by Canadair Limited in Montreal as structural test engineer, product test engineer and design engineer. During this time he took a number of specialized courses in stress analysis, mathematics, design, environmental engineering and electrical engineering.

Since 1974 Mr. Nakagawa has been employed as systems engineer with Trident Aircraft Limited in Richmond , B. C.

During his career he has had considerable experience with hydraulics and controls which will tie in closely with proposed work in irrigation equipment at the Lethb. ge station. His experience also includes considerable work in fatigue testing and strain gauge measurements which will also be invaluable to the institute.

Mr. Nakagawa is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of B. C., the Engineering Institute of Canada and the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineers.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZER SITUATION

Alberta Agriculture urges farmers to order their 1976 fertilizer requirements this fall to ensure that there will be an adequate supply and orderly deliveries.

The head of the soils branch, Adolph Goettel, reports that the present fertilizer outlook is similar to that of this time last year. "Nitrogen fertilizer supplies will again be 'tight', but phosphate fertilizer supplies will be adequate," he says.

Last year nearly 30 per cent of the fertilizer used for this year's crop was on farms by the end of December. This forward ordering, plus a slower fertilizer demand in January, resulted in few, if any, problems in the moving of nearly 590,000 tons of fertilizer on to Alberta farms for the 1975 crop. This figure represents an 8 per cent increase over the 1974 figure.

Doug Penny of the soils branch says the main advantage of applying nitrogen fertilizers in the fall to forages and land that is to be cropped to cereals is that it reduces the spring work load. Although many farmers apply their nitrogen fertilizer at this time of the year, preliminary research results carried out in Alberta and in other parts of Western Canada indicate that under some conditions nitrogen applied in the fall for cereal crops may be less effective than that applied in the spring.

In fact, research carried out by Dr. M. Nyborg of the University of Alberta's soils department indicates that some fall-applied nitrogen may be lost under the wet conditions that prevail in the early spring. Losses have apparently been greater with fertilizers applied in the early fall (late September) than with those applied in the late fall (late October).

According to Mr. Penney, the frequency with which significant losses occur from fall-applied nitrogen has not yet been fully evaluated. He advises farmers who have been obtaining good results from fall nitrogen applications to continue this practice. However, he recommends some caution as far as applying fertilizers in the early fall is concerned and in applying them in the fall to fields which are unusually wet in the spring.

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AGRI·NEWS

October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
COMMUNICATIONS

October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOAR BREAKS CANADIAN RECORD FOR DAILY GAIN

An Alberta boar, sold at a record of performance sale in Edmonton, has broken the Canadian record for average daily gain and the Alberta price record.

Bred by Yorkshire breeder Stan Fulks of Wasketenau, this animal had an average daily gain of 2.94 while on test and sold for $1,900. His feed conversion rate was 2.27 pounds, his backfat depth was .63 inches and his estimated loineye area was 5.26 square inches. The boar was bought by Sandview Farms of Bentley, Alberta, which plans to use it for artificial insemination (A. I.) in the farm's herd.

Mr. Fulks also had the second highest priced boar in the sale. It was bought for $1,000 by Agriculture Canada for use in the A. I. centre at Woodstock, Ontario. This boar's average daily gain was 2.67 pounds, and it is the second boar from Mr. Fulk's herd to be purchased by Agriculture Canada for the Ontario A. I. centre.

Alberta Agriculture's regional swine specialist at Red Deer, Fred Schuld, says these purchases for the A. I. centre in Ontario indicate that Alberta has the quality of breeding stock that is being sought by breeders who are interested in the highest quality available.

The total number of boars sold at the performance test sale in Edmonton was 24. The average prices by breeds were as follows.

17 Yorkshire sold for a total of	$9,050	or an average price of $532.35
4 Durocs sold for a total of	$1,675	or an average price of $418.75
2 Hampshires sold for a total of	$ 625	or an average price of $312.50
1 Lacombe sold for a total of	$ 275	or an average price of $275.00

The total price for all breeds was $11,625

The average price for all breeds was $484.38.

Alberta has a record of performance sale the second Friday of every month. Sponsored by the Alberta Swine Breeders' Association, these sales are held alternately at the Edmonton and Lacombe central swine ROP test stations.

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Alberta
COMMUNICATIONS

October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANTING RAPESEED IN THE FALL

Have you planted rapeseed in the fall? If you have, Alberta Agriculture would like to hear the results you obtained and your opinion about fall planting.

Cereal and oilseeds specialist, Sherman Yelland, says that very little research has been done in this area and that there is a need for more information. Some farmers have apparently achieved considerably earlier maturity from planting Campestris (the Polish type) in the fall but obtained little yield advantage. Other farmers report only mediocre crops from fall seeding.

Dr. Zenon Kondra, rapeseed breeder with the University of Alberta's plant science department, believes that Campestris rapeseed can be planted in the fall with a fair possibility of success. This type of rapeseed appears to have sufficient dormancy to prevent the seeds from germinating too early in the spring.

Napus rapeseed (Argentine type), on the other hand, seems to lack this spring dormancy factor and cannot be planted in the fall. This is unfortunate because it is the rapeseed type which could greatly benefit from a longer growing period. Also, it is slower in establishing seedlings than Campestris which makes it less able to compete successfully with winter annual weed seeds in the early spring.

Present data on seeding rapeseed in the fall indicates that only the Campestris type can be planted in the fall and that results obtained from farmers who have tried fall planting have been variable.

If you have had any experience in this area, your comments would be appreciated. You could either let Mr. Yelland or your district agriculturist know the results you obtained.

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Alberta
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October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM FINANCING

Although Alberta farmers rely substantially and increasingly on loans to operate their business, statistics show that long-term indebtedness has remained relatively stable in comparison with the increase in value of farm assets.

Frank Hanus, resource economist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the annual dollar value of farm loans made by the province's three major government sources of long-term farm credit, the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, the federal Farm Credit Corporation and the Alberta Farm Improvement Loan Act increased from $40 million in 1960 to $188.1 million in 1973. He points out, however, that this growth in credit has tended to follow farm income which reached a peak of $137.3 million in 1967. In 1970 it declined to $59.1 million, a year of very low net farm income, and then tripled in value between 1970 and 1973.

"Analysis of both federal and provincial government lending practices indicate that the amount of long-term farm credit extended annually is related to increases in net farm income," Mr. Hanus says. "As a farmer's net income increases, his ability to repay debts increases and both government and private credit agencies are likely to make larger loans."

Over the years, an increasing amount of long-term credit has been used to purchase farm land. Higher returns from land in terms of new farm income and a scarcity of good agricultural land has caused increases in the price of land.

In 1973 about 3.1 million acres of agricultural land were sold for close to $257 million, representing an average of $81 per acre. Last year about 3.3 million acres went for $354 million and an average of $107 per acre. This 33 per cent increase in land values would necessitate a 33 per cent increase in credit to purchase the same acreage of land.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Alberta Farm Financing (cont'd)

The following table shows a comparison of farm assets and long-term debt in Alberta for the years 1970 to 1973.

	Years			
	1970	1971	1972	1973
Value of assets in millions of dollars	5,200.0	5,202.0	5,746.0	6,331.9
Outstanding long-term government loans in millions of dollars	385.4	390.5	410.4	484.3
Total long-term debt in millions of dollars	412.8	418.3	439.6	518.8
Long-term debt as a per cent of farm assets	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2

As indicated above, farmers' long-term debts have increased rapidly in recent years, but the value of their assets (land, buildings, machinery and livestock) has just about equalled this rate of debt expansion.

Mr. Hanus explains that because the value of all assets for all farmers is compared to the debt of only those farmers with debts outstanding, the percentage ratio in the table underestimates the debt ratio of individual farmers that have outstanding debts.

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October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE COMMISSION ELECTIONS

Elections are to be held in November to 'revamp' the Alberta Cattle Commission.

The main reason for amending the commission is to enable cattlemen to elect the people they would like to serve on it. This will be accomplished by holding elections in the nine zones into which the province has been divided. These zones are based on existing municipal boundaries and where possible have similar climatic and soil conditions as well as approximately the same number of cattle.

Cattlemen in each zone will elect a zone committee consisting of 10 people who will form the official voting representatives at the commission's annual meetings. These 10 cattlemen from each zone will, in turn, elect one of their number to represent their zone on the commission. The term of office for all elected officials will be two years.

In addition to these nine members from the nine zones, the commission will have two members from Unifarm, two members from the Western Stock Growers' Association, two members from the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and one member each from the Alberta Dairymen's Association and the pure bread associations. These five organizations are currently represented on the commission and their positions are to be re-examined by the official voting representatives at the second annual meeting.

The reason for the Alberta Cattle Commission's new structure is that its members have felt hampered in the past when it came to policy deliberations relating to government programs and in commenting upon current issues related to the cattle industry. Even though appointments to the commission were recommended by various farm and cattle organizations, the actual appointments were made by government. Under the new structure, commission members will now be able to report on current issues at their own annual meeting instead of at the annual meetings of its various member organizations as has been the case in the past.

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Phone (403) 427 2127

Cattle Commission Elections (cont'd)

Clarke Ferries, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council believes that the commission's new structure will facilitate the proper kind of direct involvement by cattlemen who, as he says, "are paying the service charge for the operation of this agency."

Since it was established in 1970, the Alberta Cattle Commission has been collecting a 10¢ check-off on cattle sold through livestock dealers, auction markets, terminal yards and packing plants. This money has been spent on a variety of research projects, consumer education and promotion.

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CORRECTION:

The second sentence in the fifth paragraph of the October 13, 1975 issue of Agri News entitled "Alberta Soon Able to Process Entire Rapeseed Production", should read --- It is owned in partnership with a West German group called . . . . . .

October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BETTER THAN AVERAGE YEAR FOR MOST CROPS

Alberta Agriculture's correspondents report that 1975 has been a better than average year for most crops.

Grades and yields of the major cereal and oilseed crops are above those of last year and the long term average. Provincially, the estimated yields of wheat, oats and barley are 29.8, 56.6 and 43.4 bushels per acre respectively. Estimated rapeseed production is nearly 28 million bushels.

Harvesting operations progressed rapidly throughout the province during September, and excellent weather conditions in the central and Peace River regions enabled most farmers to complete their harvesting by the first week in October. Scattered showers delayed harvesting in the northern and southern regions but nearly all the major crops had been harvested by mid-October.

Most of the specialty crops are harvested. Vegetable and canning crops produced average yields, and potato yields surpassed initial expectations. However, corn and sugar beet crops are reported to be disappointing. Yields from forage seed crops range from good to poor reflecting the growing conditions in the particular area.

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October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM NOW IN OPERATION

Have you heard about Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate Program which started last June?

The first of its kind in Canada, it is designed to help potential young farmers avoid costly mistakes by providing them with practical experience and technical knowledge before they start farming. Graduates of this program will also qualify for managerial positions on large private and corporate farms.

This new concept in training allows the trainee to learn through on-the-job experience which is supervised by a competent farmer. The practical experience is supplemented by agricultural courses in the district and at the province's agricultural colleges.

To be eligible to participate in the program an applicant must be over 16 years of age and legally entitled to work in Canada. There are no special educational requirements and the applicant may have either a rural or an urban background. All that is required is that he or she be sincerely interested in practical agriculture as a career.

The student is on probation for six months after enrolling in the course. At the end of this time his work and learning ability are assessed by the farmer for whom he is working and a Green Certificate Program co-ordinator.

A person with a minimum of previous experience will receive at least the minimum wage. If he has considerable previous experience, his wage will be considerably above the minimum wage. The farmer who hires the student pays anywhere from 40 to 60 per cent of his wage, depending upon the student's background of experience.

The length of time it is anticipated that it will take the average student to complete the Green Certificate Program is about four years. However, it would be considerably less in the case of a person with previous experience or who had a strong incentive and the ability to complete it more quickly.

- (cont'd) -

Green Certificate Program Now in Operation (cont'd)

Approximately two of the four years will be spent in the class room, but, again, the length of time will vary greatly with the student's previous experience and ability. The class room situation will cover the academic areas of farming with special emphasis on farm management. Although students will be required to learn all aspects of farming, they will also be able to specialize in those which they are most interested. As a general rule, students will be eligible for some form of student assistance in the class room portion of the program.

Antoher unique aspect of the Green Certificate Program is that participants can take part of their on-the-job training in a country with which Canada has an agricultural exchange agreement. Among these countries are Great Britain, Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

Approximately 30 young people, ranging in age from 18 to 25, are participating in the Green Certificate Program at the present time. Some are married and one has his Ph.D. For some unexplained reason, no girls have yet enrolled in the program.

To date 40 farms, scattered throughout the province, have been approved as training farms under the program To be eligible for approval, the farm must be reasonably well managed and the owner must have the ability to get along well with young people. He must also be prepared to co-operate in time off for the student or students to take the academic part of the program. Since students can be placed on more than one farm to get the required practical experience, it is not necessary that an approved farm cover all aspects of farming.

The Green Certificate Program is co-ordinated and administered by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower and is financed jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

Information on enrolling in the program can be obtained from Walter McNary, Director of Farm Training, Alberta Agriculture, 4910 - 52 Street, Camrose, Alberta.

October 20, 1975

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October 20, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES OFFERED

Olds College is offering five correspondence courses designed for anyone interested in agriculture.

Introduction to Farm Management covers the decision making process, the pros and cons of farming as a vocation, the factors which influence the success of a farm business; the law of diminishing returns and marginal analysis.

Farm Finance deals with money and its value; inflation; costs and costing; farm business investment; money value over time; the use of credit in the farm business; sources of credit; capital investments and operating expenses.

Marketing of Agricultural Products includes a study of marketing; the law of supply, demand and price, the flow of products through the marketing system, a comparison of market types; and a detailed study of grain, livestock, egg, fluid milk and vegetable marketing.

Introduction to Farm Accounting is designed for those who have had no accounting experience. Its aim is to develop the competency needed to keep an adequate set of farm accounts.

Advanced Farm Accounting and Income Tax is intended for people who have a basic knowledge of farm accounting procedures. It deals with enterprise accounting, special problems in farm business accounting, and it outlines the procedure for using the records from the farm account book in preparing yearly income tax returns.

Anyone who enrolls in one of these courses is free to work at his or her own convenience. There is no time limit. If for any reason the program of study is interrupted, the student may continue it at a later date.

Further information may be obtained from the Correspondence Department, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO.

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AGRI-NEWS

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October 27, 1975

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASH ADVANCE TO COW-CALF PRODUCERS

The program of cash advances to Alberta cow-calf producers will be extended another year, announced Minister of Agriculture Marvin E. Moore.

The program is designed to provide working capital t› carry lightweight calves to heavier weights and avoid current low market prices.

"The 1975 advances will be available to all cow-calf producers, including purebred breeders and dairy producers," said Mr. Moore.

Two major changes in the conditions of the loan distinguish the 1975 program from its predecessor.

Producers with existing cow-calf producer advanc program loans will be required to pay the existing loan with the proceeds of their nev/ loan. Additionally, the loan will be given at a cost of 7 per cent interest to the producer. The true interest rate will be one per cent over the prime lending rate, but the Government of Alberta will pay the difference between the two rates.

Mr. Moore said the one-year cash advance of $75 per calf on 80 per cent of the 1975 calf crop would be to a maximum of $6,000 per producer. To be eligible, calves must have been born during 1975 to cows owned by the applicant before August I.

Application forms for the advance program wil; be available November 15 at county, municipal district, improvement district and special area offices. District agriculturists will provide and accept application forms in several counties not participating in the plan. Applicants will be required to sign a statutory declaration at the time of applying.

Mr. Moore said the cow-calf producers' advances are necessary as a result of the inaction of the federal government.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Cash Advance to Cow-Calf Producers (cont'd)

"The failure of the federal government to implement realistic support to Canadian cow-calf producers has forced the Government of Alberta to extend the program for one more year."

"In the absence of a federal program, a number of ill-conceived support programs have been announced by other provinces. These risk distorting the natural beef production situation in Canada," added Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore said the refusal of the federal governement to implement a program appears to be the result of a lobby by the Canadian Cattlemens Association. Mr. Moore said the Canadian Cattlemen's Association does not represent a majority of producers in Alberta and that other farm organizations should be pressuring Ottawa for action.

"The problems in the beef industry are international, but we have definite signs that adjustments are taking place. It appears 1976 will be a much more favorable year for beef producers in Alberta, and therefore, a more favorable time to terminate the cow-calf producers loan."

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULL THE BREEDING HERD

Open cows represent an expense that beef cattlemen cannot afford this winter!

Alberta Agriculture's livestock supervisor, Ken Spiller, urges cattlemen to have their cows pregnancy tested at weaning time and to cull all open cows and heifers. "In view of the poor returns expected from calf sales this fall, it is more important than ever that every cow carried over the winter be pregnant," he says. "Winter feed costs are the major part of the total cost of keeping a cow."

Mr. Spiller also recommends culling pregnant cows with such physical defects as poor udders, poor feet and legs and prolapse. With the value of replacements low, good quality heifers can be obtained at reasonable prices to replace the culled cows, he points out.

Performance test records are another criterion that can be used for culling. Any cows that produce calves considerably below the herd average at weaning time also should go. They are probably poor milkers or inferior in quality to the rest of the herd.

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Alberta

October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF SILAGE

Did you know that you have to prepare and handle silage samples very carefully if analysis results are to be meaningful?

Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist, Ruth Berg, says that samples should always be enclosed in a plastic bag to keep the moisture in and to prevent the material from being exposed to the air. If the sample loses moisture, the nutrient analysis will not be accurate. The sample should consist of several smaller samples so that it is truly representative of the silage mass.

Transportation is another important point. You should deliver your silage samples to the laboratory as quickly as possible. When exposed to warm temperatures, silage deteoriates rapidly. If you cannot take the sample directly to the laboratory, you should freeze it and ship it by bus.

Sample boxes and instruction sheets can be obtained from all district agriculturists and from the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, O. S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton. The cost of having a silage sample analyzed at the laboratory is only $2.

The data you obtained from the analysis include percentage of dry matter, crude protein, phosphorus and calcium levels and the pH level. The lower the pH level, the better the keeping qualities of the silage.

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL CALF WEANING PROGRAM

Management is the key to a successful calf weaning program.

Good management revolves around the appreciation of the psychological and nutritional stress a calf goes through during weaning. In addition to having to become independent, he must adjust to a total ration of dry feed.

"One way of reducing the psychological stress," says Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist, Jerome Martin, "is to separate the cows and calves in such a way that they cannot see each other." Continuous bawling by the two groups, separated only by a fence, creates and prolongs the stressful situation.

Make sure that the area where the calves are confined is dry and well bedded and use low troughs or tubs for water during the initial weaning period. Most calves will not be familiar with automatic waterers.

Give the calves good quality hay and some grain. The main reason for feeding grain at this time is to provide a concentrated, palatable form of energy to combat stress and lack of appetite. Mr. Martin suggests starting the calves on 0.5 pounds of grain per head per day. They should also receive 15,000 I.U. of vitamin A in their grain ration each day. An alternative is to use injectable vitamin A a week or so after the calves have been weaned.

You should gradually increase the grain ration to two to four pounds per had per day, depending upon the quality and quantity of roughage and the desired rate of gain. If the roughage is of only fair quality, a protein supplement may be required.

The practice of weaning, vaccinating and dehorning at the same time is not recommended. "Weaning alone is a very traumatic experience for a young calf," Mr. Martin says, "and no other stress should be imposed on it at this time."

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEE WINTERING ASSISTANCE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for applying for Alberta Agriculture's bee wintering assistance program has been extended from November 1 to two weeks after the national postal strike is over.

The extension is to enable beekeepers who were caught by the postal strike to get their applications in to Apiculture Branch, O. S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton , T6H 4P2.

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTERING HONEYBEES

The food supply is the most crucial factor in wintering honeybee colonies.

Alberta Agriculture's apiculturist, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, recommends leaving a minimum of 90 pounds (more is better) of honey in a three-story colony and, 60 pounds in a two-story colony and at least 30 pounds in a single brood chamber h ve. He also recommends supplementing the honey with five to 10 pounds of sugar per colony, depending upon the colony strength, to help the bees through the first part of the winter. Because sugar is nearly pure carbohydrate, it has little or no indigestible material and it matabolizes quickly to form heat. It should be given in the form of syrup (equal parts sugar and water) to which has been added half a teaspoonful of fumidil per gallon of syrup.

Questionnaire answers on wintering bees in Alberta show that the use of fumidil appears to increase the chances of a colony surviving the winter by protecting it againsts nosema disease.

"It is essential when wintering bees in this province," says Dr. Soehngen, "that a means of drawing off the water vapor from the hive is devised." If the vapor is not removed, it will condense in the upper portion of the hive and freeze. When the heat from the bees melt it again, it can kill the cluster.

Dr. Soehngen suggests putting a shallow super with large mesh screening on the bottom (hardware cloth) partly filled with wood shavings on the top of each colony to absorb the moisture from the hive. Porous fibreglass pads and similar materials can be used instead of the wood shavings. To provide additional ventilation, prop up the cover of the super with a heavy nail or small stick inserted between it and the frame of the super. An upper entrance to the hive will permit the bees to fly on a warm spring day and will also provide additional ventilation.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Wintering Honeybees (cont'd)

Although at least one beekeeper has successfully wintered a large number of colonies without any packing or wrapping material, most beekeepers in this province have been more successful when they have put at leat one layer of tarpaper around their hives. Many beekeepers add some insulation such as fibreglass, rockwool, straw etc. Dr. Soehngen points out, however, that the insulation works both ways - - - it prevents the cold air from entering the hive but it also prevents the sun's heat from entering the hive and warming up the bees so that they move out from their cluster in search of more food supplies. For this reason, Dr. Soehngen recommends using only one layer of tarpaper on the south side of the hive.

If you plan to winter your colonies indoors, Dr. Soehngen has a word of advice. "Use forced ventilation," he says, "to remove the carbon dioxide, which, being heavier than oxygen, tends to concentrate near the floor."

He reports that Quebec Department of Agriculture studies show that bees wintered indoors remained much quieter and survived in better condition when the carbon dioxide was removed from the entrances of colonies.

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE WINTER STUDY PROGRAM

Why don't you join the thousands of rural Albertans who take advantage of the free continuing education program that is offered each winter by the Rural Education and Development Association.

The purpose of the program, which is assisted by a grant from Alberta Agriculture, is to provide participants with information on current economic and social development trends and problems as they affect today's town and rural life. It is also designed to improve the knowledge and skills of those who take part in it so that they are better able to improve their situation whether it be in the context of the community or in the management of an agricultural business.

If you would like to participate in the program you have two options. You can register as an individual (which includes the family) or you can register as a member of a group. The second option (group study) is open to people who would like to form a winter study group in their community and to groups who are already established.

The program is divided into four series of topics. Whether you are participating as an individual or as a group member, you are entitled to have papers sent to you on all the topics in a series (five topics) or the papers on any five topics chosen from any of the series.

Following is a list of the series.

Series A - For Discussion and Debate

- Growth vs Non-Growth in Rural Communities
- Land Banks
- Social Problems in Rural Communities
- Rural Electrification Association - What's the Issue?
- Sharing the Farm Income

- (cont'd) -

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Free Winter Study Program (cont'd)

Series B - For Information

- Green Certificate Program
- Metric System as it Applies to Agriculture
- Farmers' Markets
- The Stabilization Bill
- Canada's Role in International Agriculture Development

Series C - For Farm Management

- Magnetic Seed Treatment
- Registered Retirement Savings Plans
- Labor Management in Agriculture
- Farm Management - Principles and Planning
- Financial Management Package

Series D - Self-Growth

- Emotional Self Defence
- Utilizing Time for Pleasure and Profit
- Effective Parenting
- Decision Making
- Self Development

For further information write to the Rural Education and Development Association, 9934-106 Street, Edmonton, T5K IC4 or contact your district agriculturist or district home economist. The deadline for registering for this continuing education program is December 1.

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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY SEMINARS

All Alberta agricultural societies are invited to send delegates to any one of the following society seminars.

Wanham. . . . . .Monday, November 10

Claresholm. . . . . .Friday, November 14

Stettler . . . . . Tuesday, November 18

Waskatenau. . . . . Friday, November 21

The seminars will cover grants for building multipurpose buildings, etc.; Rural-Urban Community Association (RUCA) objectives and achievements; enrichment of fairs, shows and exhibitions, the function and effectiveness of secretaries (importance and responsibilities) and the role and problems of agricultural societies in the community.

The seminars will commence at 9:00 a.m. and end about 5:00 p.m. They will be followed by an evening banquet and entertainment.

Agricultural societies which intend to send a delegate or delegates to a seminar are asked to notify the RUCA office immediately so that catering arrangements can be made with the host society. Travelling expenses of one car (12¢ a mile) from each society will be paid by RUCA. One night's lodging will also be paid for delegates who travel more than 150 miles to attend a seminar. The seminar, banquet and entertainment are all free!

The telephone number of the RUCA office in Edmonton is 427-2174.

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AGRICULTURE
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October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Have you lost honey combs or, perhaps, entire colonies to American foulbrood this year? Or are you wondering how you will kill your bees in the fall when cyanide is no longer available to beekeepers?

Chances are that Dr. H. Shimanuki of the U. S. Department of Agriculture will be able to provide answers to these and other problems at this year's Alberta Beekeepers Association convention, scheduled for November 5, 6 and 7 at Calgary's downtown Holiday Inn.

Dr. G. Thomas of Berkeley, California, will talk on chalkboard and other bee diseases. It is hoped that he will also outline the impact the Africanized honeybee can be expected to have on North American beekeeping.

Dr. L. Atkins of Riverside, California, and Ted Jansen, president of the Alberta Aerial Applicators Association, will discuss the application of pesticides versus beekeepers, each from his own side of the problem.

Frank Butz, chairman of the newly formed Alberta Beekeepers Commission, will discuss the role of the commission in the honey industry and answer questions from the floor.

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, will address the members' luncheon on Thursday, November 6.

Open to members and non-members, convention participants are asked to make their reservations as early as possible.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Jean Guilbault, secretary-treasurer, Alberta Beekeepers Association, 12919 - 135 Street, Edmonton, T5L 1Y4. (Telephone 452-9185).

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Alberta

October 27, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLEMENT ACT ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

George Calver, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch, has announced the appointment of an administrator for the Farm Implement Act. He is R. G. McFadyen who has been vice-principal of student services at the Olds College since 1973.

In addition to administering the farm implement act, as it relates to parts and warranty problems encountered by farmers, Mr. McFadyen will supervise the licensing of farm machinery dealers and vendors.

He was raised in Watrous, Saskatchewan, and received his B.Sc. (agricultural engineering) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1962. Four years later he received a diploma in business administration from the same university.

Mr. McFadyen joined Alberta Agriculture in 1962 as an agricultural extension engineer. He taught agricultural mechanics at the Olds College and has been on the administrative staff of the college since 1969.

While at the Olds College, he served as town councillor for three years and as a member of the Agricultural Engineering Advisory Committee for Alberta for four years. This committee reviews machinery and building problems as well as research needs.

Mr. McFadyen is a member of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineers, the Alberta Institue of Agrologists, and the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.

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AGRI-NEWS

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...IANA

November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE JAMAICAN LAND REFORM PROGRAM

Project Land Lease is part of the Jamaican government's land reform program.

There is a lot of talk today in Alberta and, in fact, in Canada, about the absentee landlords because this type of situation is rarely conducive to optimum farm efficiency and production. Another country which is suffering and has suffered from the same problem for many years, is Jamaica.

However, two years ago the Jamaican government took some very positive and innovative steps towards solving this and other problems by bringing in a massive land reform program called "Operation Grow" - Growing and Reaping for Wealth. This program can best be understood in the context of Jamaican history.

- (cont'd) -

The Jamaican Land Reform Program (cont'd)

When the island was first discovered by the Spanish at the end of the 15th century, it was soon realized that it possessed no rich deposits of minerals that were known in those days. Since its wealth lay in the rich fertile land, exploitation of the country was based upon the plantation system which included the use of slave labor.

Large numbers of people were brought to the Caribbean from Africa by both the Spanish and the British and used to provide cheap labor. Cheap labor was essential at that time because of the lack of technology.

Unfortunately, the slaves derived no real benefits from working the land. In fact, in many cases they developed a hatred for it because to them it represented very hard work with no profit or pride of owership

Some of the more industrious slaves attempted to acquire plots of land on the outskirts of the plantations where they could grow subsistence crops. For the most part, however, these ventures failed because the land was usually much less fertile than that of the plantations, and it was often located in very hilly areas.

Nevertheless, these people managed to develop a peasantry which blossomed in the post-slave emancipation period and which significantly contributed to broadening the agricultural base in Jamaica.

When the abolition of slavery came in 1838, the slaves moved off the plantations and acquired small plots of land, some by purchase and many by 'squatting'. These new land owners, and those who acquired land before emancipation, began to grow cash crops like bananas, pimentoes, yams, coffee etc. in place of subsistence crops.

- (cont'd) -

The Jamaican Land Reform Program (cont'd)

Prior to the abolition of slavery, Jamaican agriculture had been based on a mono-crop system (sugar), with large tracts of land being owned by absentee landlords. Hence, most of the land which the slaves managed to acquire was neither fertile nor large enough to produce an adequate living. The result was that they were only too glad to leave the land at the first opportunity, and this feeling of discouragement lead to a wave of both internal and external migration around the turn of the century.

The internal migration consisted of large numbers of people moving into the major cities and is partly responsible for today's over-crowding, high unemployment and crime escalation in Kingston. Many other Jamaicans took advantage of the opprtunities at that time to go to places like Panama, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, leaving Jamaica's potential as an agricultural country unfulfilled.

Today a large proportion of Jamaica's food has to be imported, despite the fact that country was first recognized as having vast agricultural possibilities. Since no developing country can afford a large food import bill, the government is now taking steps to develop Jamaica's untapped agricultural resources through their land reform which is aimed at attracting young people back to the land, making the small farms capable of providing their owners with an adequate living and ensuring that all agricultural land is fully productive.

'Operation Grow" consists of three separate projects known as Project Food Farms, Project Self-help and Project Land Lease. The ultimate aim of all three is to make Jamaica self-sufficient in food production and to provide employment for her rapidly growing labor force of which only about 23 per cent is gainfully employed at the present time.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
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Project Food Farms

Under this project the government proposes to utilize approximately 50,000 acres of land currently owned by the government or in the process of being purchased. The aim here is to maximize the agricultural potential of the better farm land in the country, some of which is still owned by absentee landlords or simply lying idle.

The lands currently owned by the government are in different parts of the island and involve 18 separate properties on which vegetables, trees, pork, beef and milk are being produced. The people who work on these properties, which vary in size from 200 to 2,000 acres, are all government employees. Some of the farms are mechanized while others are labor intensive. The government's stated objective is to eventually turn these farms over to the people who are working them. One of the farms has already been made into a co-operative and part of another has been developed as a co-operative where about 50 young people are growing a variety of food crops

Project Self-Help

This project provides loans and subsidies for crops that the government is encouraging so that farmers are able to develop viable economic units.

Project Land Lease

Divided into three phases, Project Land Lease is designed to increase the production of food crops as quickly as possible. At the present time Jamaica imports such national staples as rice, goats' meat and wheat, while all imported foods, or at least acceptable substitutes, could be produced at home.

In the first phase of Project Land Lease the govenment leases small parcels of land (one to five acres) for from five to 10 years to small farmers who need more land to make an adequate income. Credit is provided under this project for all major expenses such as those involved in land preparation, obtaining planting materials, fertilizers etc. This credit is covered by produce sales contracts to the Agricultural Marketing Corporation.

The Jamaican Land Reform Program (cont'd)

The second phase of land lease provides farmers with long-term leases ---up to 49 years. This land is either already owned or being acquired by the government. The holdings are tailored in size to achieve the difference between what a farmer is now earning from his own land and what is considered an economic unit.

A farm that produces an income of J$1,500 to J$2,000 a year would be considered an economic unit in Jamaica. However, the income from the average farm is only J$300 --- a Canadian dollar is worth about 88¢ in Jamaican dollars. Tenancy terms include heredity rights, compensation for improvements, and similar credit arrangements as for phase 1. The tenancy can be terminated if the farmer's performance is not up to standard and emphasis is placed on youth when tenants are chosen. In essence, phase II of Project Land Lease is designed to overcome the land fragmentation problem that is so prevalent in Jamaica by providing thousands of farmers with uneconomical-sized holdings with an opportunity to acquire an economic unit.

The third phase of Project Land Lease involves properties owned or now being acquired by the government which are located too far away from populated areas to be used for supplemental leaseholds. These properties are being subdivided on the basis of full economic units and various forms of co-operative management are being tried. Here again the emphasis is being placed on youth, and it is envisaged that phase III of the Land Lease Project will form the basis of the government's major land reform thrust in future years.

From all reports, Project Land Lease is proving a great success with more than 20,000 farmers having been settled on economic units in less than two years. To ensure the success of their land reform program, the government, under the Ministry of Agriculture, has launched a very active extension program aimed at improving and up-grading the knowledge and skills of its participants.

November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE BREEDING STOCK SOLD TO JAPAN

Alberta has completed a major sale of Yorkshire swine breeding stock to a Japanese breeder, announced Marvin E. Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The sale to Japan could open a new and important Pacific Rim market, said Mr. Moore.

"The sale is indicative of a potential market not only for swine, but for livestock feed, equipment, consulting and other services."

"Japan is recognized as the pacesetter of the Pacific Rim and it's likely other countries will follow the Japanese lead."

Buyer of the first Alberta Yorkshires sold to Japan is Eiji Yabe, who operates a large purebred swine farm near Tokyo. Mr. Yabe recently visited Alberta with a delegation of Japanese and Taiwanese breeders as guests of the Alberta Export Agency. The group inspected purebred herds, and met with representatives of the Alberta Swine Breeders' Association and Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch.

Dr. T. Nagamitsu, a leading Japanese swine authority, aided Mr. Yabe with his selection, and felt the animals would create widespread interest on their arrival in Japan.

He described Japanese breeders as "highly competitive" and predicted further orders would result from the sale.

Dr. Nagamitsu was first impressed with the quality of Alberta-raised Yorkshires when he visited Alberta last year, and praised the breed in a Japanese swine journal.

Dr. Nagamitsu advises Alberta swine breeders to continue developing their distinctive Yorkshire type, instead of copying the American Yorkshires.

"I know Japanese breeders would be disappointed if they travelled to Alberta and were shown only American type Yorkshires," he said.

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Swine Breeding Stock Sold to Japan (cont'd)

Mr. Yabe has renamed one of the boars Canada Grand, and may enter the Alberta-bred hogs in a major Japanese show this spring.

Mr. Moore is optimistic about the future of hog breeding in Alberta.

"We hope Alberta's purebred swine breeders will respond to new opportunities for selling good breeding stock on both domestic and foreign markets. Alberta needs a strong purebred hog industry to take advantage of export trade opportunities and to support the province's swine operations."

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November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RATIONS FOR BEEF CALVES

"Feeding beef calves on rations which provide for little or no weight gain is a very inefficient way of using feed, time and other resources," says Jerome Martin, Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist.

He compares it to letting your tractor idle in the middle of your yard all summer. "Your fuel bill will be low, but the fuel that is used will have been wasted because you will have accomplished nothing with it."

The higher the rate of gain in beef cattle, the more favorable the feed to gain ratio is because the maintenance costs are spread over more pounds of gain. If, for example, a calf weighing 450 pounds were fed a daily ration of 9 pounds of excellent quality hay and 3 pounds of barley, it would gain 1.2 pounds per day and the feed to gain ratio would be 10:1. If, on the other hand, the calf were fed 11 pounds of fair to medium quality hay per day and no grain, the predicted gain would be only 0.5 pounds per day. In this case the feed to gain ratio would be 22:1.

These examples show that when an animal is fed for a low ratio of gain, it must eat a larger percentage of feed to simply maintain itself. In the second example it takes twice as much feed to put on a pound of gain as it does in the first example. "One could carry this reasoning to the point where at zero rate of gain, the feed to gain ratio would be infinity," Mr. Martin says.

All this adds up to the fact that there is no point in feeding calves all winter if you are not going to provide for weight gain. It is also important to remember that animals fed at near maintenance levels are likely to be more susceptible to stress and disease than those fed good growing rations. The usually recommended rate of gain is 1.0 to 1.5 pounds per day.

While an average of 3 pounds of grain per head per day is appropriate for calves weighing 450 pounds, the exact quantity of feed required depends upon the quality of roughage and grain and on the rate of gain desired. If the quality of hay being fed to calves is only fair to medium, the ration should include both grain and a protein supplement.

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Rations for Beef Calves (cont'd)

Mr. Martin points out that exact ration recommendations depend upon a feed an /sis. All district agriculturists can tell you how to submit feed samples to the Alberta Soils and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton and are prepared to help you interpret the analysis in terms of a feeding program.

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November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN QUEEN BEE PROJECT

Three hundred honeybee queens left Alberta by air recently for Mexico!

Their destinations were a number of commercial Mexican beekeepers, including Miel Carlota, the largest queen breeder in the world. Alberta Agriculture, which is sponsoring this Mexican Queen Bee Project, hopes to get about 10,000 young queens from this initial investment by next spring.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, provincial apiarist in charge of the project, explains that Alberta sent its own queens to Mexico so that the Mexicans could produce the strain of bees that are most suitable for our climatic and environmental conditions. "The majority of the strains currently being used in Mexico," he says,"have been selected for aggressive characteristics to discourage hive pilfering in outlying areas of the country. However, since these aggressive traits are not needed here, and since they make the bees more difficult to handle, it was decided to send our own honeybee strains to Mexico for multiplication."

Most of the queens that have gone to Mexico were produced this year from stock that was originally selected in northern Saskatchewan. They are primarily Caucasian queens because this strain tends to be more winter-hardy than the Italian strain, which is the other main type used here. Dr. Soehngen says there is a growing trend in this province towards overwintering honeybees because of the difficulty of obtaining package bees and queens in the spring and because of their ever increasing price.

The queens were sent to Mexico in cages, each cage containing one queen and half a dozen workers. Except for Miel Carlota, package bee production and queen breeding are new to most Mexican beekeepers with the result that the present project involved a considerable amount of preliminary work on the part of Alberta Agriculture personnel.

The reason the government decided to import bees from Mexico was to ensure that Alberta beekeepers will have a supply of relatively high quality queens and that the price of these queens will be lower than the price currently being charged in the United States.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Mexican Queen Bee Project (cont'd)

The offspring from the 300 young queens now in Mexico will be returned to Alb .a next April and will be used to fill part of the package bee orders and to provide replacement queens for overwintered hives which lose their queens. The package bees will again be distributed through the courtesy of the Alberta Honey Producers' Co-op.

So far Alberta is the only province in Canada which is importing package bees from Mexico.

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November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRILLING A FARM WATER WELL

Are you planning to drill a farm water well? Do you know how much water you will need to get from that well?

The following table will help you to calculate your water requirements. To find out how many gallons per minute you will need, add up your water requirements for all animals and people and divide the total by 1,440.

Holstein Calves (26 weeks old)	5
Steers (maintenance ration)	4
Steers (fattening ration)	8
Range Cattle	12
Holstein Milk Cows (lactating)	28
Jersey Milk Cows	20
Holstein Milk Cows (dry)	12
Swine	4
Sheep	2
Farmhouse, with pressure system (per person)	50

Where Will You Find Water?

Locating water can be a frustrating, time consuming and costly business, sometimes necessitating the drilling of several dry holes. However, you can get information on the groundwater potential in most areas of Alberta from the ground water development branch of Alberta Environment.

How Do You Find A Competent Well Driller?

A really competent well driller will usually be a member of the Alberta Water Well Drillers' Association.

Alberta Agriculture's engineers suggest that you protect yourself by obtaining the following from the well driller you choose.

- a written contract for the protection of both parties.
- a list of the well driller's charges on an itemized basis; not just on a per foot basis.
- a written agreement stating what is acceptable as a dry or wet hole in case the driller has a special rate for dry holes.
- assurance that the top of the well will be cemented to prevent contamination.
- a log from the driller when the well is completed stating the types of earth encountered, the depth of the well, the depth of the water, the length and diameter of the casing etc.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Drilling a Farm Water Well (cont'd)

This information is required by government regulations and could be valuable if the well needed servicing in the future.

What Should a Well Cost?

Well costs include such things as drilling, casing, cementing, pump testing, pressure system or pump and other things such as screens, a drive shoe, a gravel pack etc. Because the total cost will vary with the drilling conditions and the development, the cost for a complete 100 to 200-foot well may range from $1,000 to $2,500.

Does a New Well Need Protecting from Polution?

A new well should be chlorinated and then thoroughly pumped out to remove any bacteria which may have been introduced during the drilling operations. It is also advisable to have both bacterial and chemical samples analyzed. Containers and sampling instructions are available from all local health unit offices.

Is There Any Government Assistance for Drilling a Farm Well?

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Assistance (PFRA), a federal government program, gives a maximum grant of $550 per farm well drilled. Following are the maximum amounts payable under the PFRA Water Development Program.

a) Drilling.....not more than $2 per foot
b) Boring or excavating.....not more than $3.50 per foot
c) Casing or cribbing.....fifty per cent of the cost
d) Well screen and screen fitting.....not more than $150
e) Granular packing.....not more than $50
f) Cement grouting.....not more than $50

Remember, drilling a well is no job for an amateur. Choose a licensed driller; not just a 'fly-by-night' operator!

November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECRETARIAT MEMBER APPOINTED

The chairman of Alberta Agriculture's policy and liaison secretariat, Dr. J. E. Wiebe, has announced the appointment of Dr. R. S. Andersen to the secretariat.

As a member of the secretariat, Dr. Andersen is responsible for establishing a liaison with agribusiness and for making policy recommendations pertaining to problems arising from activities associated with agribusiness.

Dr. Andersen was born and raised on a mixed farm in the Drumheller area. He attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1969 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). He obtained his M.Sc. in agricultural economics in 1971 and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics (international trade and marketing) from the Ohio State University , Columbus, Ohio.

During the summer of 1968 Dr. Andersen worked on 4-H programs for the Alberta Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. The following summer he conducted market research for the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board. He joined Alberta Agriculture as a regional farm economist in 1970 and for the next two years administered economic programs related to agricultural production, finance and marketing in the northwest region of the province.

Since returning from the United States in July of this year, Dr. Andersen has been a livestock marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. Until his present appointment he was conducting a research project to analyze the impact of freight rate increases on the pricing and distribution of cattle and beef in Canada.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT BRANCH APPOINTMENTS

The appointments of three new members to the staff of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch have been announced by J. Wilson Loree, branch head. They are: Harry Warne, supervisor of the financial management section; Ken Bunnage, farm planning section; and Charles Pearson, farm records and analysis section.

As head of the financial management section, Harry Warne will be responsible for implementing programs to assist farmers in financial decision making. This includes developing information and educational materials on income tax management, estate planning, use of credit, farm organization and related matters.

Mr. Warne, a native Albertan, received a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1952 from the University of Alberta, Edmonton. From 1952 until 1958 he was employed as a dairy and poultry instructor at the Fairview Agricultural and Vocational College. Mr. Warne then became a partner in a dairy processing operation, returning to teach at the Fairview College in 1962. In 1965 he received a B Ed. from the University of Alberta. From then until his present appointment, Mr. Warne served as instructor at Fairview College, where he attained the position of senior instructor in business education.

Ken Bunnage, agricultural economist with the farm business management branch's farm planning section, will specialize in preparation of materials to aid farmers in planning their livestock enterprises. This involves livestock budgeting plans, loan calculators and cash flow forecasters. Mr. Bunnage will also be responsible for Altasim, the farm management game used for teaching farm management in Alberta.

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Farm Business Management Branch Appointments (cont'd)

Born and raised in the Glenwood area, Mr. Bunnage worked for the CPR for seven years, then attended Brigham Young University in Utah, graduating with a B.Sc. (agricultural economics) in 1973. He later attended Washington State University, doing course work for his master's degree and working as a research assistant. During the 1974-75 year, Mr. Bunnage returned to Brigham Young University as an instructor in agricultural economics.

In his new position as agricultural economist with the branch's farm records and analysis section, Charles Pearson will work with the various agencies offering Canfarm and other farm record-keeping systems. This will involve promotion of the systems among accountants and agricultural consulting firms as well as follow-up to ensure that farmers using the systems are gaining maximum benefits.

Mr. Pearson is originally from southeast of Calgary. He attended school at Chestermere and in 1975 graduated from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, with a B.Sc. (agriculture) specializing in agricultural economics and animal science.

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November 3, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, J. G. Calpas, has announced the appointment and transfer of the following district home economists.

Randi Sandbu of Hay Lakes, Alberta, has been appointed to Lacombe where she will replace Jean Clark as district home economist. Prior to her present appointment, Ms. Sandbu was assistant district home economist at Rimbey.

Carol Sandra Love, a native Edmontonian, has been appointed district home economist for Stony Plain where she replaces Georgianna McDavid. Ms. Love joined Alberta Agriculture last June and has been training in Medicine Hat.

Linda Whitson has been appointed to the Lethbridge office where she will replace Marilyn Tatem who resigned at the end of August. A native of Alcomdale, Alberta, Ms. Whitson, joined Alberta Agriculture's (extension service) in 1974. She was district home economist at the new Warner office from last January until her present appointment.

Maureen Bolin has been appointed district home economist to the Taber office which was formerly served by Elizabeth Donner. Ms. Bolin, a native Calgarian, joined Alberta Agriculture last June. Since that time she has been in training at the Vulcan office.

Linda Barvir, district home economist at Peace River, has been transferred to the Falher office. She has been replaced at Peace River by Donna Reid, formerly district home economist at Manning. Meanwhile, Sue McCormack, district home economist at Slave Lake, has been transferred to the Manning office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A JAMAICAN SUGAR ESTATE

by Diana Rodney, Alberta Agriculture

Bringing sugar cane into the Innswood sugar cane factory in Jamaica

Vinegar and cattle feed components are two of the products being produced on a large, modern sugar plantation which I visited in Jamaica last summer.

Known as the Innswood Sugar Estate, it lies in rich farmland 20 miles west of Kingston. One quarter of this 5,600 acre estate is owned by the Jamaican government and three-quarters is owned by private industry.

- (cont'd) -

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A Jamaican Sugar Estate (cont'd)

According to the manager, Lloyd Logan, a Jamaican agricultural graduate from Guelph, Ontario, the gross value of the sugar, rum and vinegar is between J$6 and J$8 million a year (a Canadian dollar is worth about 88¢ in Jamaican dollars).

The factory processes 23,000 tons of sugar a year with a gross value of about J$4. It also produces 1.75 million gallons of rum, all the metholated spirits used in Jamaica and has the potential for producing 1.5 million gallons of vinegar. In fact, since vinegar production was started last year, the factory has been supplying all Jamaica's domestic vinegar requirements and exporting a substantial amount as well.

At the present time the bagasse or sugar cane fibre is used to fuel the factory furnace, but this material, when supplemented with molasses and made into pellets, is a very nutritious livestock feed.

In very general terms, here is how sugar cane is processed into sugar.

First the mature sugar cane field (10 months growth) is burnt over to make it easier to cut. Incidentally, this is a very controversial practice at the moment as it is felt that apart from its detrimental effect on the soil, nutritious sugar cane grass could be used, in conjunction with molasses , to replace in full, or in part, expensive import grains like corn. As the cane is cut it is laid out in windrows for loading onto wagons by a mechanical loader. Each cutter has his own windrow so that the cane can be weighed and recorded before it is taken to the factory. His pay is based on the amount of can he cuts. All cutting is done by hand.

At the factory the can is crushed to squeeze out the juices, and lime is added to neutralize the juice. It is then weighed and heated to clarify it. Next the juice is boiled in a vacuum to start the crystals forming, after which it goes into a crystalizer which is water cooled to make the crystals grow.

At this stage the mixture consists of sucrose and molasses. The molasses, which is used for making rum, is separated from the crystals by centrifugal force. The resulting brown sugar is used for both food and industrial purposes. The Innswood sugar factory processes about 150 tons of sugar a day, most of which is exported and further refined.

A Jamaican Sugar Estate (cont'd)

Mr. Logan says sugar cane plants continue to produce a profitable yield for five or s years, after which they have to be replaced by new plants. However, if production falls below 3½ tons of cane or 3.5 tons of sugar per acre, the field is usually replanted sooner than this. The new plants are set out with a mechanical planter.

"Disease," says Mr. Logan, "is not a problem in sugar production but newly planted fields have to be sprayed for weeds." At Innswood the cane fields are trash-irrigated with water in which has been added impurities (fertilizer) that have been removed from the sugar during processing.

On the Innswood estate all the cane is cut by hand to provide work for the local people. They reap about 200 acres of sugar cane a week and their average earnings are J$90 a week, which works out to abo it J$2.50 per ton of sugar. The workers get time and a half for overtime work and double time on Sundays.

Most cane cutters cut about five tons of sugar a day and they work about seven months of the year. The sugar estate is responsible for finding them employment off the property during the remaining five months.

Of the 860 people working on the Innswood Sugar Estate, 350 are cane cutters, all of whom are covered by life insurance and all of whom have double indemnity against death by accident. They are also entitled to sick leave, free medical treatment, drugs etc. Only about 100 of the employees live on the premises.

The Innswood estate also awards five university scholarships a year to children of their workers. According to Mr. Logan, it is only in the last four or five years that sugar cane workers have been eligible for 'ringe benefits like those provided at Innswood. The increase in the price of sugar, which is now J$270 a ton, compared with J$90 five years ago, is mainly responsible for these greatly improved working conditions.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALLOCATING WINTER FEED SUPPLIES

Now is a good time to evaluate and allocate winter feed supplies.

Alberta Agriculture's animal nutritionist, Jerome Martin, says it is important to allocate feed of a particularly quality to that category of livestock which can make the most efficient use of it.

Pregnant cows, for example, require only a low to medium quality feed and so do well on a fair quality hay, straw plus grain or a mixture of hay, straw and grain. If, however, the protein level in the straw or in the hay is very low, it may be necessary to feed a protein supplement.

Since lactating beef cows require high quality rations based on excellent quality hay or medium quality hay plus grain and a protein supplement, it is a good idea to save your best hay for next spring.

As a general rule, it is wise to use one's best quality hay for calves as well as for lactating cows. If the basal feeds (grain and hay) contains less than 11 to 12 per cent protein, it will be necessary to feed a protein supplement.

Dairymen should always use the best quality hay they can grow or purchase for the milking herd. Attempts to use low quality roughage to get top production have almost invariably ended in failure.

To get even normal production from poor to medium quality roughage, a dairyman would have to feed what he would, undoubtedly, consider a high level of grain and protein supplement. Hence, it would be more economical to use medium quality roughage for the dry cows in the herd.

Mr. Martin stresses that an evaluation of feed supplies should include a feed analysis and points out that an early evaluation will enable you to make the best use of your feed during the entire winter feeding period. It will also enable you to feed a supplement if one is required.

You can have your feed analyzed at the Alberta Soils and Feed Testing Laboratory, O. S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2. The cost is only $2 per sample.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BEST LAND MAY BE THE BEST BUY

A farmer who is buying land is often faced with a choice of two or more parcels with different productivity potentials.

If you had an opportunity to buy fair quality land capable of averaging 40 bushels of barley per acre for a price of $250 per cultivated acre or to buy a piece of land that has the potential of yielding 60 bushels an acre for a price of $400 a cultivated acre, which would you buy?

Here is how Sandy Lauder, Alberta Agriculture's regional farm economist at Red Deer, suggests that you arrive at your choice.

At a barley price of $2 a bushel, the better land would gross an additional $40 an acre over the poorer land. Assuming that the extra costs to cover taxes, growing, harvesting and marketing the additional yield amount to 35¢ a bushel or $7 an acre (probably quite high), the net additional income would be $33 an acre. This $33 an acre represents a 22 per cent return on your extra $150 an acre outlay.

If, however, extra credit has to be obtained to buy the land, the extra cost per acre to cover interest payments at 8.5 per cent would amount to $12.75. "The partial budget," says Mr. Lauder, "is an excellent method of determining the relative profitability of the two parcels of land."

If you are considering buying the $400 an acre land, then compare it with the poorer land by the partial budget technique.

Increased Revenue/acre (20 bushels x $2/bushel)		= $40.00	
Reduced Costs/acre		= 00.00	
	SUBTOTAL		$40.00
Additional Costs/acre	(a) grow, harvest, market, etc.	= $ 7.00	
	(b) interest payments	= 12.75	
Reduced Revenue/acre		= 00.00	
	SUBTOTAL		$19.75
Therefore the increase in net returns by purchasing better land		=	$20.25/acre

- (cont'd) -

The Best Land May Be the Best Buy (cont'd)

As shown in the partial budget the rate of return on the extra investment in the better land, after deducting the cost of credit is 13.5 per cent, which is in addition to whatever return would be received (if any) on the cheaper less productive land.

"The thing to remember here," says Mr. Lauder, "is that the first $250 per acre investment and the 40 bushel yield is common to both types of land. Hence, only the additional costs and returns relevant to the better land need be considered for comparison purposes."

This 'marginal' approach does not, however, determine whether or not the $250 investment in the poorer land is a profitable move. It shows only that the additional $150 investment would be advantageous in view of the above figures and assuming that you would be able to handle the additional principal payments in the cash flow ($6 per acre for 25 years).

Mr. Lauder points out that you can easily see from the partial budget that every 25¢ change per bushel in the price of barley affects both the gross and net returns by $5 per acre. For example, the gross revenue advantage of good land would slip to $20 per acre if the price of barley was $1 a bushel and the net advantage would drop to zero, making $1 barley the breakeven point between the two types of land. On the other hand, if the price of barley was $1.50 a bushel, the net advantage to the good land would be $10.25 per acre representing 6.83 per cent return on the extra $150 per acre investment.

From an investment point of view another consideration would be which type of land is going to show the best capital gain? Is barley production making the best use of the poorer land? Mr. Lauder says that suitable grain, forage and summerfallow rotations could be worked out for each type of land and the above partial budget procedure followed by using the overall "rotation net income" rather than looking only at barley as a crop.

Still another consideration is that, as a general rule, purchasing the better land would create higher credit repayment installments, part of which would be interest and tax deductible.

- (cont'd) -

The Best Land May Be the Best Buy (cont'd)

At the same time we have seen that the better land would generate a higher net income ($20.25 per acre) which would put you back into a higher tax bracket. However, after taxes, the extra interest cost applied against the higher marginal tax rate would still leave you with extra dollars in your pocket.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RADIAL-PLY TIRES FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

Can farmers use radial-ply tires on agricultural machines like tractors?

This question was prompted by the fact that the 'tell-tale' radial-ply bulge (like a tire low in air) has been noted on industrial equipment such as road graders.

Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineer at Fairview, reports that studies carried out at the University of Nebraska on a soil test tract showed that radial-ply tires have more tractive efficiency than conventional bias-ply tires.

"More tractive efficiency means more pounds pull on the drawbar through reduced slippage but no increase in tractor weight," Mr. Green explains. He adds that the better traction also increases the power-output per gallon of fuel burned.

On the other hand, in the United States radial-ply tires cost about 30 per cent more, if purchased as original equipment or as replacements, than conventional tires, and 45 per cent more than new bias-ply tires if the latter are traded for radials.

According to Mr. Green, tire manufacturers have indicated that agricultural radial-ply tires will not be available in Canada before the middle of next year. "The manufacturers will not speculate on how much the tires are likely to cost," he says, "but the industrial version of these tires costs up to 50 per cent more than conventional type tires."

Other factors about which information is not yet available include such things as the expected life of radial-ply tires, the effect of radials on soil compaction and their resistance to damage when used under 'extreme' conditions.

However, Mr. Green says, "we will know more about the cost and benefits of radial-ply tires by the time they are available for general distribution in Alberta."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HAS CHEAPEST SEED CLEANING RATES

A national survey, conducted by Alberta Agriculture, shows that except for British Columbia's Peace River block, farmers in this province pay only about half as much to have their seed cleaned as farmers in other provinces of Canada.

Sherman Yelland, cereal and oilseed crops specialist with the field crops branch, feels that one of the best ways of retaining these cheap rates is to make optimum use of the province's 75 municipal co-op seed cleaning plants by spreading the work load over as much of the year as possible. On an individual basis, the plants cleaned an average of 317,000 bushels of seed last year, but they are capable of cleaning double that volume if the work load is spread over the entire year.

According to Mr. Yelland, Alberta's 75 municipal seed cleaning plants cleaned 23 million bushels of grain and oilseed for seed and dockage removal last year. Estimates show that the volume of seed cleaned represented about 65 per cent of Alberta's annual seed requirements. However, on a provincial basis, it seems that only about 51 per cent of farmers use the plants, and that this percentage ranges from a low of 25 per cent in some areas to a high of over 80 per cent in others.

Another Alberta Agriculture survey showed that this province leads the rest of Canada in the quality and purity of seed sown. However, Mr. Yelland points out that this fact, revealed in the department's last seed drill survey, should not be considered cause for complacency. "There is still a great need," he says, "for considerable improvement in the quality and purity of the seed we sow each year, and many more farmers could benefit from taking advantage of the modern facilities offered by our municipal seed cleaning plants."

Among the advantages of having seed cleaned now rather than in the spring are cheaper rates, a less rushed and, therefore, a more thorough cleaning job, easier transportation and convenient bookings.

Alberta
COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

What are Alberta's agricultural societies doing?

According to the supervisor of the agricultural societies' program, Lillas Brown, agricultural societies involve its members in many activities. They sponsor annual fairs, which bring town and country people together, promote neighborliness, family outings, entertainment, fun and keen competition. They also undertake building projects to provide needed multi-purpose facilities in communities and they sponsor educational short courses, seminars and workshops. They conduct livestock sales, community auctions, farmers' markets, and recreational programs. Money making ventures such as socials, bingos, and fund raising drives are also important events.

In essence, agricultural societies are often the real focus within a rural community and their activities reflect their members' individual needs as well as the needs of the community. Thus, each society is unique to a particular community "It is the organization that brings people together to make the community a better place to live and work " Mrs. Brown explains.

There are now 198 agricultural societies in Alberta, over half of which have been formed in the last four years. "This renewed interest in agricultural societies," says Mrs. Brown, "is due to the realization of their potential within the community and their contribution to agriculture."

Alberta Agriculture's agricultural services branch assists the societies by providing capital grants and guaranteed loans for needed multi-purpose facilities and grants to support fairs and judging honorariums. Resource personnel are also available for educational seminars, short courses and workshops.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FARM BOOKSHELF - COLLECTING DUST OR DATA?

by A. M. Harvey
Farm Business Management Branch
Alberta Agriculture

Have you ever wanted to check on a metric conversion figure, read about calf scours, verify a salesman's claim, identify a crop disease or confirm some average production costs for your next year's budget?

Some day the answers will be obtained from a central information tape library by telephone or flashed on to your television screen. Meanwhile, an up-to-date, carefully stocked bookshelf can be made to serve as a handy information aid to better decision making.

There are three types of relevant management information: -

- Production data such as new crop varieties, livestock feeding methods and machinery systems.
- Market facts and forecasts such as past price cycles, current prices and future trends.
- Farm business management information which simplifies the blending of production and market data into dollar terms such as profit, percentage returns and cash flow profiles.

There are many written sources of such data. Regularly published magazines may be specific to all aspects of one production sector such as hogs, or they may contain a variety of articles from which particular interests can be satisfied. These periodicals keep the reader up-to-date in his sphere of interest. Text books serve best as a reference source when in search of principles. Their details of practical applications tend to date quickly.

Worthwhile sources of written facts include:

Local newspapers, farm newspapers and magazines; breed society journals; agribusiness, farm organization and marketing board publications; bank newsletters; the Grain Grower Farm Business Digest, Doane's Agricultural Report and so on.

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The Farm Bookshelf - Collecting Dust or Data? (cont'd)

Government and university information sources:

Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture extension publications; University of Alberta and other university extension department conference and study reports; Agriculture Canada's research station newsletters and reports. Alberta Agriculture's "Farm Management Data Manual", "Agrifax", "Market Analysis", "Alberta Farm Economist" and crop reports.

Lists of both federal and provincial publications that are available free of charge can be obtained from the publications office, Communications Branch, Alberta Agriculture, IB 4, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

A limited number of practical reference text books have been written on such topics as farm management, crop production, livestock production, veterinary medicine, farm finance, legislation etc.

A good way of choosing books and publications for your farm library is to visit your district agriculturist office and to browse through your nearest agricultural college library to get ideas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOME FACTS ABOUT CONSUMER LAWS

Alberta Agricultue's home management specialists have prepared a series of lessons on family finance as part of their fall and winter program.

Following are some interesting facts taken from the series.

•If a boy or girl under 18 years of age signs a contract for a basic necessity such as a car which he must have to get to his work, food, clothing, an apartment etc., he or she is liable in case of a default in payment. However, if the car is for pleasure or if the person buys non-necessary items like sports or hobby equipment, he is not liable if he does not pay.

•If a parent co-signs a contract for a son or daughter who is under 18, he or she is liable.

•The Direct Sales Cancellation Act, which states that a consumer can cancel a contract for goods sold door to door within four days, does not apply if you sign the contract at a fair, an exhibition or in the seller's office. It also does not apply to perishable goods like food. If, for example, a company sells dried skim milk powder and the sale includes a 'free' mixing machine, you cannot break the contract because, theoretically, it is only the skim milk powder that you are buying.

•A wife should never co-sign for her husband's loan or loans because she would then be responsible if he did not pay it off. The husband, on the other hand, is responsible if his wife uses credit even though he did not approve the credit or purchase. This is the reason that merchants insist upon the husband's signature before issuing a credit card to his wife.

•You can check with Central Registry, 15th floor, Century Place, Edmonton, to find out whether there is a lien on a second-hand car you are planning to buy.

•You can check with the Central Registry of Chattel Security Registration in the Edmonton Court House (basement) to see if there are any liens on used farm mchinery, furniture or appliances that you are thinking of buying.

- (cont'd) -

Some Facts About Consumer Laws (cont'd)

- If your property is held in joint tenancy, it automatically goes to the surviving spouse even when there is no will.

- The most effective way of handling a consumer complaint when no action is taken by the seller is to publicize your complaint by such means as a letter to the paper.

- You do not have to return merchandise that you receive but did not order.

- Women do not have to answer whether or not they are married, single or divorced on a job application form.

- Women can use pressure to have laws changed by submitting briefs. Men make laws but women have an enormous potential for getting them changed.

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GIRL ON FARMERS' MARKET SYMBOL NAMED

Left to right: Gerry Moore, manager of Agrimart in Calgary; Anne Crerar, winner of the "Name the Farmers' Market Girl" contest; and Dave Rous, farmers' markets representative with Alberta Agriculture. "Sunny", the Alberta farmers' market girl, is seen on the sign in the background.

The girl on the Alberta farmers' market symbol will now be known as "Sunny". This name was selected from well over a thousand entries that were submitted in last summer's province-wide contest.

"Sunny" was entered by Anne Crerar of Calgary, a regular shopper at Calgary's Agrimart, who received a home freezer and a cheque for $50 to buy produce from a farmers' market.

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Girl on Farmers' Market Symbol Named (cont'd)

Dave Rous, chairman of the Alberta farmers' market committee which chose the name "Sunny" from among 1,391 entries says that the committee felt that this name aptly describes the present mood and the future outlook for farmers' markets in Alberta.

He reports that the number of farmers' markets in Alberta this year has climbed to 35, which is more than double last year's figure, and that test markets held in a number of communities may mean still more markets in 1976. In addition, 95 enquiries have been received to date from groups and individuals interested in establishing a farmers' market.

"Consumer response to farmers' markets has continued to be very enthusiastic," Mr. Rous says. "It was a common sight last summer to see crowds lined up outside farmers' markets waiting patiently for them to open, and a recent Saturday morning market in Red Deer drew 5,000 people."

It also appears that, in many cases, the establishment of a farmers' market has had a beneficial effect on entire communities. The fact that an active farmers' market brings the residents of an area and tourists into the town's business district probably explains why business people are often among the strongest supporters of farmers' markets.

According to Mr. Rous, vegetables, usually of a very high quality, continued to be the main products sold at farmers' markets. Mushrooms, honey, eggs and baked goods are also in great demand. Among the non-food items sold at farmers' markets are house plants, antiques and handicrafts ranging from candles to raw wool.

Mr. Rous points out that this is the second full year of farmers' markets operating under Alberta Agriculture's farmers' market program. The program provides grants of up to $10,000 to market sponsors, providing they use equal proportions of the grant for building or renovating suitable market facilities and for promotion and advertising. Market sponsors in Alberta include agricultural societies, auction markets, town and municipal councils and exhibition associations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

The chief deputy minister of the Alberta Department of Transportation, R. G. McFarlane, challenged the chairmen of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural development committees to assess and make recommendations on the needs of rural transportation in the province.

He was speaking to about 50 chairmen at a luncheon in Edmonton which was held in conjunction with a conference being held to increase the awareness of rural transportation issues of today and the future.

Mr. McFarlane also challenged his staff of district engineers, who were attending the conference, to begin examining the transportation and development issues in their areas and to help local citizens with air, road and rail transportation problems.

In recognition of the vital importance of the Grain Handling and Transportation Commission's recommendations on railway lines to the economic development and way of life of this province, Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, and the minister of transportation, Dr. Hugh Horner, asked in their presentation to Chief Commissioner Hall, that the agricultural development committees and the district engineers all become involved in providing information on transportation problems that the Hall Commission will consider when deciding on changing or abandoning railway lines.

Rick Ure, a TRANSCOM field representative working with Unifarm, outlined the part that TRANSCOM will be playing in identifying transportation needs and explained how transportation is a key factor in the development of numerous resource potentials in Alberta. He also explained that TRANSCOM is a public participation program being conducted by Unifarm and sponsored by Alberta Department of Transportation to help communities to assess their transportation needs as they are now and as they will be in the future; to develop transportation alternatives; to assess the likely impact on the communities of rail line abandonment and to analyze community roads affected by changes to the grain handling system.

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Rural Transportation Conference (cont'd)

The TRANSCOM program will be involved only with those communities which are being examined by the Hall Commission.

It is envisaged that the chairmen of the agricultural development committees and the district engineers who attended the conference will provide leadership in those communities which will be affected by the Hall Commission's rail line abandonment recommendations.

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November 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TOUR

Have you been to Japan and other Far East countries? Have you ever thought of visiting that part of the world?

Alberta Agriculture is organizing an educational tour to Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, which is open to its staff and to agribusiness personnel and farmers from across Canada.

Tour participants will depart from Edmonton and Calgary on June 6 of next year and return on June 28. Eight days will be spent in Korea; three in Hong Kong; four in Taiwan and eight in Japan (Osaka and Hokkaido).

Eighty-five is the maximum number of people who can be accomodated on the tour and the cost per person, based on double occupancy, will be approximately $1,775. This price includes all breakfasts, 10 main meals, and a tour conductor.

Anyone interested in the tour is asked to contact Norm Thompson as soon as possible. His address is Room 1101, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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COMMUNICATIONS

November 10, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELTERBELT TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM

Dead and dying farmstead shelterbelt trees.

The county of Lethbridge has a program which helps farmers to remove farmstead shelterblets which are dying.

This tree removal program was started two years ago in recognition of the fact that many farmstead plantings that were established in the 1920's and 1930's are now showing advanced signs of loss of vigor and in some cases the trees have died. The majority of the trees in these old shelterbests are poplars which are fast growing but have only a limited lifespan. Advanced signs of loss of vigor include dead branches and tops, dead patches of bark, cankerous growths and a reduction of leaves on the branches.

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Shelterbelt Tree Removal Program (cont'd)

In the Lethbridge tree removal program the county provides the labor to cut down the trees and supplies large D6 and D8 caterpillar tractors to uproot the stumps. The farmer has to provide some labor and shares in the cost of hiring the heavy equipment.

In addition to greatly improving the appearance of the countryside in the Lethbridge area, the program has proved extremely popular with farmers who have unsightly dying and dead shelterbelts.

In fact, as a result of the enthusiastic team work of Murray McLelland, district agriculturist at Lethbridge, and Ben Nyhoff, agricultural fieldman, this shelterbelt removal program has been so successful that a number of other counties in southern Alberta are planning to adopt a similar program.

Herman Oosterhuis, in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting program, says he hopes that this type of program for the removal of farmstead shelterbelts which have outlived their usefulness will eventually be available anywhere in the province through local agricultural service boards.

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November 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM RECORD KEEPING SYSTEMS

To help farmers keep accurate and comprehensive records, Alberta Agriculture provides two types of farm account books and offers the CANFARM computerized farm record keeping system for a nominal fee.

The account books, "Prairie Provinces Farm Account Book" and the "Alberta Farm Account Book" are available from any district agriculturist's office. If you need help in setting up your records or in making calculations, your district agriculturist will be pleased to help you.

If you want to use the CANFARM system, you record your daily transactions on input sheets which are sent to Guelph, Ontario, where they are fed into the computer. You can get back any of the following reports: a statement of assets and liabilities, a farm income statement, a farm operating statement, a cash flow statement, a bank account report, a credit account report, tax reports and enterprise reports.

Although one of the main reasons for keeping records is to provide information for income tax purposes, a good set of farm records also helps a farmer evaluate his business's past performance and to make future plans. They also show the capital cost allowance for fixed assets at the end of the year.

A great deal of the value of farm records lies in improved management decisions. By providing the farmer with a record of income and expenses for each enterprise, they enable him to determine which of his enterprises is the most profitable.

Because accurate farm records provide actual cost and income data for the farm, they are useful for planning and budgeting future management decisions. A financial analysis of these records is particularly useful for creditors, landlords, etc. because the records show the operation's relative profitability. This financial analysis is also useful as a basis for comparing the performance of the farm with that of similar farms in the area.

- (cont'd) -

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Further information on setting up a systematic record keeping system and on using the CANFARM system can be obtained from your local district agriculturist or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

November 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TERRARIUM GARDENING

Terrarium gardening is a good way of overcoming the low humidity problem that is often encountered when growing plants indoors, especially during the winter.

"A terrarium," says Alberta Agriculture's horticulturist, Arlene Chesney, "is a translucent container of living plants. It can be either open at the top or completely closed, and ideally, it should be self-sustaining."

Plants in a terrarium absorb water through their roots and release it into the air through their leaves, thereby increasing the humidity in the container. Eventually, the water vapor condenses on the walls and top (if there is one) of the container and is returned to the soil.

The extent to which a terrarium is self-sustaining depends upon whether or not it is open at the top, and if it is open at the top, the size of the opening. Closed terrariums provide a very humid environment, while open topped terrariums are only semi-humid, and will require the occasional watering.

Here is how you make a terrarium. Line the container with moss to enhance its appearance and to help maintain the humidity. Put half to one inch pebbles in the bottom for drainage and fill the lower quarter of the container with a good potting soil.

"You can make your terrarium more interesting by contouring the soil surface," Miss Chesney says. A blunt instrument is recommended for this job. After making suitable depressions for the roots of your plants, put them into the terrarium and firm the soil down well. If the terrarium has only a small opening (the top of a bottle) you will have to lower the plants into it with tongs or tweezers (tallest ones first). Lay them on their sides with their roots over the hollow you have made for the roots. Then press the roots into the soil with a blunt instrument and push the soil over them.

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Terrarium Gardening (cont'd)

When the plants are all in place, spray them and the soil with a fine mist, and put the terrarium in indirect lighting until the moisture level has stabilized. If there is too much moisture in the terrarium, the sides of the container will become foggy and you will have to remove the cover in a covered terrarium to allow the excess moisture to escape. On the other hand, if the soil is still dry after the initial watering, you will have to add a little more water. Miss Chesney warns that the greatest hazard with terrariums is overwatering, not underwatering!

Once the moisture level has stabilized, you can put your terrarium anywhere in the room except in strong direct sunlight.

Miss Chesney suggests the following plants for a closed terrarium: prayer plants, spider plants, crotons, aluminum plants, and nerve plants. African violets, peperomia, hoya, and zebra plants are all suitable for a semi-humid terrarium.

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November 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN AND CREDIT

by Jan Williams-Russel
Alberta Agriculture's District Home Economist
at Stettler

Women and credit is a much discussed and often controversial issue today. But it's just a piece of a puzzle, part of a larger and much broader issue: the change of women's roles in society.

Women are moving from dependence to independence, from playing a mostly supportive role to assuming full responsibility and leadership in both private and public life. With these changes goes women's search for their own self-worth, both personal and financial.

Special Problems Women Have

The fact that women frequently play many roles during their lives (unlike the fairly continuous occupational role played by most men) adds to the difficulty women have in establishing their own financial identity and keeping it throughout their lives.

Very often a women goes from school to work, from work to staying home with young children and then returns to a part or full time job.

- Women who have not continued to work full time and to maintain financial and credit identities separate from those of their husband will have the same trouble obtaining credit as a teenager.
- Women who have become the sole supporter of their families are often denied credit only because they are women, although they otherwise qualify.
- The absence of significant numbers of women in professions, in the higher echelons of business, and in the lending industry where decisions are made, has helped perpetuate the myths about women and credit. Those who hold false beliefs are very often in decision-making positions and are those who are able to extend or withhold credit.

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Be Vocal and Know the Laws

No longer are married women regarded as a chattel or property of their husbands. Although the lending industry is undergoing changes in its attitude towards women and credit, new policies and laws concerning women and credit may not have filtered down to the individual conducting the interview. Don't stop at the officer you're dealing with if you think you have a legitimate claim. Go to his superior. Be vocal and insist on fair and equal treatment.

The "Married Women's Act" in Alberta gives a married women the same rights and liabilities as unmarried women. Among other things, this means a married woman is capable of being made liable in respect of a tort (breach of a duty imposed by law), contract, debt or obligation. It also makes her subject to the laws relating to bankruptcy and enforcement of judgments.

Establishing Your Credit Rating

If you have never obtained a loan or established credit on your own, you may have to establish a credit rating first. Here are a few suggestions on how to go about it.

- Open a chequing account in your own name.
- Apply for a charge account or a single purpose credit card in your own name. Be sure you have your own account number and are not just listed under your husband's account number.
- Borrow cash from a bank or credit union. Initially, you may need a co-signer but if you pay the loan off according to the contract, you will then establish a good rating.
- If you are divorced, taking on responsibility for jointly made debts will indicate that you are financially dependable.

And remember, be sure to manage your money and your credit responsibly. One of the false assumptions about women is that they "generally don't keep their figures straight".

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November 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN CANADIAN NITROGEN SYMPOSIUM

The Western Canadian Nitrogen Symposium will be held in Calgary's new Carriage House Inn on January 19, 20 and 21.

Sponsored by a group of soils research scientists, the symposium will replace the annual Alberta Soils Workshop.

The agenda will include "The Effects of Nitrogen Fertilizer on Soils and Crops"; "The Contribution and Future Potential to the Soil's Nitrogen Pool of Legumes and Other Nitrogen Fixers"; and "Soil Management for Effective Nitrogen Use".

Bill Toews of Alberta Agriculture, and secretary of the sponsoring group, says he intends to send out symposium programs when the mail strike is over to research scientists, educational personnel, agribusiness representatives etc. across Western Canada.

Further information on the Western Canadian Nitrogen Symposium can be obtained from Bill Toews, Soils Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. His telephone number is 427-5347.

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AGRI-NEWS

November 24, 1975

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ADVENTURE IN JAPAN

Do you like adventure? Do you like meeting new people? Have you thought of working on a Japanese dairy farm?

Pat Farris of Andrew, Alberta, thinks there is nothing to compare with it. She has been on a dairy farm in Hokkaido province in Northern Japan since last February, and says that every day is rewarding and exciting. She went to Japan under the Alberta-Japanese Dairy Exchange Program which provides for a two-way exchange of 10 Albertans and 10 Japanese with dairy farm experience.

Pat Farris and a Japanese dairy co-worker in Hokkaido province, Northern Japan.

"Each day," says Pat, "I ponder what mysteries await me. Invariably I will have just got nicely started washing down one of our 45 milking cows or cleaning out the barn when I am wisked away to a public bath, for a chat with the mayor of Hiroshima-cho (the local town) or for a friendly visit with Oji-chan (grandfather).

Pat's day starts at 5 a.m. After having milked the cows she checks them for mastitis and ketosis before turning them out to pasture. The cows are all Holsteins which are bred artificially. Pat says, "most of the semen comes from Canadian sires."

Depending upon the time of year, Pat's other jobs may include weeding the corn crop which is grown for silage, or making hay. In Japan hay is made in July and at the end of September. During this period Pat stands on the truck and stacks bales while her male Japanese co-workers load the truck.

- (cont'd) -

Adventure in Japan (cont'd)

"It is not unusual," says Pat, "for the truck to sink to its axle in the soft soil and to have to be unloaded and pulled out with two tractors." The reason this problem occurs is that most of the hay fields in this part of Japan were rice paddies until quite recently. Timothy, orchard grass, clover and a very small percentage of alfalfa are the varieties of forage grown.

Last summer Pat showed some of the cattle at a number of dairy shows. She found it great fun and won several trophies including one for the top dairy cow in the area.

"The variety of people one meets on this dairy farm certainly makes life colorful and exciting," Pat says. "There have been workers here from all over Japan. In fact, two high school students recently returned to their own farms after helping here for a month, and an American girl, whose first experience of farm life was here, has now returned to Tokyo."

According to Pat, the ski resorts and skating facilities are fantastic in Hokkaido province. Although the winter is slightly milder than that in Alberta, there is plenty of snow.

"It is a pity," Pat says, "that more young people in Alberta are not taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the Alberta-Japanese Dairy Exchange Program for an adventurous and exciting new life. There are so many Japanese who are longing to go West. I would not have missed this experience for anything. I love these people of the 'Golden Race' -- every one of them!"

Information on the Alberta-Japanese Dairy Exchange Program can be obtained from Alberta's dairy commissioner, Fred Hutchings, Box 6120, Provincial Building, Wetaskiwin and from the head of Alberta Agriculture's rural resources branch, Charlie Cheshire, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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November 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGE ALBERTA EXPORT SALE TO JAPAN

The recently signed contract between Alberta and Japan is believed to be the largest long-term contract for the export sale of hogs from Canada, and makes Alberta North America's major exporter of pork to Japan.

The sale is the equivalent of approximately 410,000 hogs over the next two to three years and is valued at about $41 million to Alberta hog producers. The price paid for the hogs, basis an average carcass, is the equivalent of over $100 per hog at current values and will vary throughout the contract period according to a feed price flexibility formula. Details on the price adjustment formula are available from the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board.

An important feature of this sale is that a special index grading schedule will be used to allow producers to market hogs under the agreement at carcass weights of up to 200 pounds without overweight penalties. This provision was made to allow for larger pork cuts to meet Japanese demands. The present Canadian grading standards are too restrictive in this regard.

The sale was arranged through the co-operative efforts of the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board, meat packing companies, the Alberta Export Agency and Alberta Agriculture's marketing division. The Alberta Export Agency was the main catalyst in initiating interest in the sale. Agency officials facilitated negotiations towards the sale by bringing together the parties involved.

In a statement made at the time the sale was announced, Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, said a great deal of credit for the present sale must be given to hog producers themselves for showing confidence in their marketing board and for working with the meat packing industry to show leadership in developing long-term contracts.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Large Alberta Export Sale to Japan (cont'd)

Last August a special project team was created of representatives of the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board. the Alberta Export Agency and Alberta Agriculture. After several weeks of negotiations a system of coded bidding was adopted which provided for the tendering of bids for the sale and purchase of pork.

The contracts were awarded by the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board to Gainers Ltd. in Edmonton (360,000 hogs over 36 months) and to Swift Canadian Ltd. in Edmonton (48,000 hogs over 24 months).

The hog contract just signed will benefit consumers according to officials of the Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board. They point out that foreign contracts tend to reduce the amount of pork removed from the domestic market, particularly during high price periods, because the pigs sold under the contract are produced specifically for this market. Since the majority of hogs committed under a foreign contract are sold before they are born, they have very little or no effect on the home supply base.

In theory, everyone benefits from foreign contracts. The producer benefits through income stability, the foreign buyer gets an assured supply of the product and the Canadian consumer escapes some of the price competition from foreign buyers during a reduced meat supply period.

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November 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERPROVINCIAL RAT CONTROL MEETING

Alberta and Saskatchewan government officials engaged in rat and rabies vector control agreed at a joint meeting in Lloydminister that the ultimate objective of their rat control programs is a rat-free Western Canada!

The meeting was attended by over 40 provincial and municipal workers involved with agricultural programs, extension, pest control and municipal administration. The delegates agreed to press for research since there is virtually no research being done in Canada on the control of rodents and other vertebrate pests. They also re-emphasized the fact that successful rat control depends upon a co-ordinated effort at all levels of government plus the active support of organizations and citizens.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's pest control branch, J. B. Gurba, says that Alberta, which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in successful rat control, has experienced some difficulties with its rat control program over the years, but that it has essentially kept the province rat-free since 1950. He points out that skepticism of the program in the early years has been gradually replaced by the full support of municipalities, organizations and citizens, and that the 'buffer zone', established along the province's eastern border, is keeping invading rats and skunks (the main vectors of rabies on the Prairies) out of Alberta.

Although Saskatchewan has had the problem of coping with rat infestations that have been present for 30 or 40 years, large areas of that province have now been cleared of rats. These are mainly near the Alberta border. "The organization and experience gained in these areas can now be used to extend the rat-free areas eastward across Saskatchewan, and hopefully, into Manitoba," Mr. Gurba says.

According to Mr. Gurba, Alberta and Saskatchewan's co-operative rat control program is the only one of its kind in Canada and perhaps on the North American continent. Both provinces agree that successful rat control depends upon the sharing and use of knowledge based on the habits of Norway rats and upon the continuous application of modern control methods.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

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Interprovincial Rat Control Meeting (cont'd)

They also agree that provincial leadership, co-ordination and appropriate funding are all necessary to optimize the efforts of municipalities and local residents for rat control over a large area. Sporadic, part-time campaigns have never been successful anywhere in the world, the officials said.

"Rat control methodology is available, effective and economical, but its application requires team work and community and individual participation," Mr. Gurba says. He believes that rat control programs which have proved successful in Canada could be used in developing, food-hungry nations where rats and other pests destroy about a third of all the food supplies.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THINNING A MATURE SHELTERBELT

The recommended method of thinning a multiple-row farmstead shelterbelt.

It is not uncommon for farmstead shelterbelt trees to become overcrowded after 15 or 20 years growth.

There are two main reasons why this situation occurs. First, the recommended spacings for shelterbelt trees planted 15 to 20 years ago, were often too close for optimum tree growth. The second reason is that regardless of recommended spacings, people are always inclined to plant trees too close together because they do not realize the size the trees will attain in a few years.

Signs that a shelterbelt is overcrowded include irregular growth with some trees being taller and larger in diameter than others; dead lower branches and thinning foliage in some areas of the shelterbelt.

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Thinning a Mature Shelterbelt (cont'd)

Under severe crowding conditions the trees will die prematurely, mainly from lack of moisture, and they will be prone to insect attack and disease.

However, according to Herman Oosterhuis, who is in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting program, overcrowded shelterbelt trees can be saved by thinning, regardless of the age of the trees. "This operation is best done in the winter," he says, "when it is easy to see and work with the trees."

In single-row shelterbelts overcrowding is much less of a problem than in multiple-row shelterbelts because the roots have access to the soil on both sides of the row. However, Mr. Oosterhuis recommends thinning spruce trees that have been planted only four to six feet apart, by removing every other tree in the row.

There are two thinning methods that can be used in multiple-row shelterbelts, depending upon how severe the overcrowding is. If the overcrowding is not very severe and the trees involved are multiple-stem trees like willows and Manitoba maples, the situation can often be alleviated by removing some of the stems in one or more of the rows. "The other method of thinning,which involves removing one or more rows of trees,is usually the easiest and most satisfactory one to use," Mr. Oosterhuis says. It also leaves a more uniform looking shelterbelt."

To make thinning a multiple shelterbelt easier, Mr. Oosterhuis suggests leaving the debris on the ground to rot. However, all the wood should be cut up so that it is in contact with the ground where the moisture will speed up the decaying process.

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November 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING A SKATING RINK ON A LAWN

You can make a skating rink on your lawn without doing too much damage to the grass if you go about it the right way, says Arlene Chesney, Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer.

The first rule is not to start the rink until the ground is frozen and the grass has a deep covering of snow. You should always make the rink on top of the snow so that the grass gets the benefit of the air in the snow.

To outline the rink, mould the snow into a ridge around the area, and put boards or plywood on the inside of the ridge to act as a cushion for hockey pucks. Then drag a snow shovel or a toboggan over the area to level the snow before applying the water.

To make a good base sprinkle water over the area for many short periods. You can either sprinkle the water directly onto the snow or you can cover the snow with large plastic sheets and spray the water onto them. Miss Chesney says a garden hose of a lawn sprinkler is ideal for this job. Then tramp down the snow around the edges of the rink to prevent the water from draining away.

If you find rough spots or holes in the base of your rink, patch them with snow and then soak the snow with water. Once you have established a good base, keep the ice smooth by giving it frequent light waterings. Always clean the ice surface before applying the water.

Miss Chesney suggests fertilizing the lawn as soon as the frost goes out of the ground in the spring to minimize damage to the grass.

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Alberta

November 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOAP, CREAM AND LOTION RECIPES

by Jan Williams-Russel
Alberta Agriculture's district home economist
at Stettler

If you're looking for a novel Christmas gift idea, why not try your hand at a soap, cream or lotion recipe?

Soap-making was one of the routine household activities in pioneer days. Laundry soap, saddle soap and scented toilet soap were all made at home as a matter of course.

Today we can buy any variety of soap at the drugstore, but there's still something special about home-made soaps, lotions and creams. On the practical side, they are usually less expensive than their purchased equivalents. They contain skin-soothing glycerine, which has been removed from many commercial soaps. They're a natural and thoughtful gift -- and nothing compares to the pleasure and satisfaction of washing with home-made soap.

Shampoo

1/3 bar castile soap
1 pt. soft water
1 tbsp. olive oil
juice of one lemon
Melt soap in hot water, add oil and lemon. Strain.

Cold Cream

20 parts heavy mineral oil
5 parts white beeswax
30 parts borax
8 parts water

Add the wax to the mineral oil in the top of a double boiler and heat slowly until the wax has melted. Dissolve the borax in the water. Heat both liquids to under 66° C (150° F) and with a gentle stirring action, pour the borax solution slowly and steadily into the wax solution. Add perfume, if desired. Remove from heat and cool to 50° C (120° F). Pour into glass or plastic containers.

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Soap, Cream and Lotion Recipes (cont'd)

Hand Lotion

15 fl. oz. ethyl rubbing alcohol compound (70%)
15 fl. oz. water
1 oz. soft soap (e.g. linseed oil soap)
4 fl. oz. glycerine
perfume as desired.

Mix the rubbing alcohol with the water (use distilled water if your water is hard) and add the soft soap to the mixture. Mix until dissolved. Stir in the glycerine and add perfume if desired.

After Shave Lotion

A cooling astrigent solution for use after shaving can be made by combining:

½ oz. boric acid
20 oz. ethyl rubbing alcohol compound (70% alcohol)
15 fl. oz. water

Use crystalline boric acid rather than the powder form since crystals dissolve more easily.

More detailed information on making soaps and creams is contained in the publication "Soap, Cream and Lotion Recipes", available from your district home economist and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, 1B4, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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November 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF MARKET DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED

The appointment of H. B. (Ben) McEwen as director of the market development division has been announced by J. H. Hanna, assistant deputy minister of marketing for Alberta Agriculture.

In this capacity, Mr. McEwen will be responsible for assisting producers and producer groups through improvements in marketing systems, for furthering the development of markets and processing of agricultural products within Alberta, as well as for responding to the needs of Alberta's consumers.

Mr. McEwen, who holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the Ontario Agricultural College, has extensive experience in agricultural marketing. He first held technical, sales and management positions with United Co-operatives in Ontario.

In 1966 Mr. McEwen joined Genstar Limited and held senior marketing and production positions in that Canadian corporation. With the Brockville Chemical division he progressed to the position of vice-president of marketing, responsible for the sale of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals in eastern Canada, U.S.A. and other export markets.

A member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, Mr. McEwen has served as president of the Plant Food Council of Ontario and chairman of the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

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CANADIANA

December 1, 1975

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASING EVERGREENS

An example of evergreens which have been severely stunted by adjacent rows of deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves).

Did you know that a row of fast-growing deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves) can stunt the growth of evergreens in an adjacent row if the rows are too close together?

Because of their slow growth compared with fast-growing varieties like willow, poplar and maple, both spruce and pine can be seriously affected by the whipping action of the branches on fast-growing varieties.

As a general rule spruce, which are shade tolerant, manage to stay alive under these adverse conditions, but pine will soon die if severely suppressed by an adjacent row of trees.

However, Herman Oosterhuis, Alberta Agriculture's tree specialist, says that evergreens will quickly revive if the deciduous trees which are causing the problem are removed from the shelterbelt.

- (cont'd) -

Releasing Evergreens (cont'd)

The evergreens will grow new branchlets, foliage and leaders, and increase their diameter. Since. evergreens are the most valuable trees in a multiple-row shelterbelt, it is well worth sacrificing a row of deciduous trees to save them.

As with regular thinning, winter is the best time to release suppressed evergreens by removing offending fast-growing tree varieties.

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December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW AND EXPANDED IRRIGATION COUNCIL APPOINTED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin E. Moore has announced the appointment of a new and expanded Irrigation Council as provided for by an amendment to the Irrigation Act at the Spring sitting of the Legislature.

Appointed to the Irrigation Council are F. J. Brewin, farmer member from Purple Springs and chairman of the Irrigation Council; E. J. Shimbashi, farmer member from Barnwell; C. W. Friesen, farmer member from Lethbridge; Jim Hajash, farmer member from Brooks; W. V. Boras, farmer member from Picture Butte; Russell McLeod, farmer member from Lomond; J. C. Purnell, director of the irrigation division and representative of Alberta Agriculture; and P. G. Melnychuk, assistant deputy minister of Alberta Environment, Edmonton.

The administrative arm of the Irrigation Council is the office of the Irrigation Secretariat which has recently been relocated in Lethbridge. The basic policy framework of the Alberta government is to provide maximum utilization of agricultural resources and involve the people from the 'grass roots' to ensure adequate input from those actually affected.

In keeping with this policy, the Irrigation Council is comprised primarly of farmers who are not representative of irrigation districts, but representative of irrigation as a whole for the province.

The duties of the Irrigation Council are to advise irrigation district boards on the conduct of their affairs as set out in the Irrigation Act and to advise the minister of agriculture on irrigation policies as well as to carry out any other duties requested by the minister.

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Alberta

December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION MEETING

The tone of questions asked at a meeting in southern Alberta on the Western Grains Stabilization Program left the impression that Western farmers are not completely sold on the program.

The meeting was organized by the Vulcan Agricultural Development Committee and featured Harry Leggett of Agriculture Canada and the Grains Group. It represented the first time that the stabilization program had been explained in detail to Alberta farmers.

Bill C-41, the Western Grains Stabilization Act, currently at the third reading stage, is designed to reduce the fluctuation in farmers' net incomes or cash flow, which results from long-term fluctuations in grain and oilseeds markets.

Under the program farmers will pay a 2 per cent levy to a maximum of $500 on grain sales. The federal government will contribute twice this sum to the stabilization fund.

When the net income from grain sales in any year falls below the previous five-year average, farmers will be paid the difference between their net income in that year and the previous five-year average.

Mr. Leggett suggested at the meeting that the program is likely to start in January if it gains early parliamentary approval.

The Vulcan farmers wanted to know how long the program will remain a voluntary program and noted that they were assumed to be participating in it unless they informed Ottawa to the contrary. They also wanted to know how the government's contribution to the program was going to be raised, and what the chances were for a plebiscite on the program. Other information sought included an explanation on the way costs of production would be calculated and whether funds would be reimbursed when a farmer retires.

- (cont'd) -

Western Grain Stabilization Meeting (cont'd)

One farmer was critical about the five-year average basis for triggering payments. He suggested that it would negate any substantial benefits from the program if grain markets were depressed for a long period. He was also concerned that the program might cause a degree of instability in that farmers might react by abandoning their own methods of income stabilization.

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December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREEDER SEED ORDERS

Applications for obtaining cereal and oilseed breeder seed through the C.S.G.A. Select Plot Growing Program must be received by Alberta Agriculture by December 31.

To ensure delivery on time, Lydia Erickson, secretary of the Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, asks those who want breeder seed to take their application forms to their nearest treasury branch office or district agriculturist who will forward them to Mrs. Erickson at the head office in Edmonton.

Because of the mail strike, anyone who does not have an application can submit his request in letter form. He should indicate the kind and variety of seed required and the size of the plot for which it is intended. He should also indicate whether he plans to change from one variety to another within the same species; whether he plans to grow the variety requested in addition to other species; and whether he plans to replace one variety with another of the same species. If one variety is intended to replace another, the grower should state his reason for doing this.

To be eligible to enter the Select Plot Growing Program for the first time, an applicant must have had three years of successful production of the type of seed (wheat, oats, flax triticale, etc.) for which he is applying. Successful production means that the crop was approved by the Canadian Seed Growers Association.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs. L. Erickson, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, telephone number 427-5348.

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Phone (403) 427-2127

December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE THREAT OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Dutch elm disease, caused by a fungus that attacks European, American and Siberian elm trees, has reached Manitoba and is probably on its way to Alberta.

This is what Vern Hildahl of the Canadian Forestry Service in Winnipeg told nurserymen and government personnel (involved in horticulture and plant disease control) at a meeting in Edmonton, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture in preparation for a possible outbreak here.

Mr. Hildahl verified that outbreaks of the disease occurred for the first time in Manitoba last summer at Brandon, Winnipeg and Selkirk. He explains that it is spread from one tree to another by the elm bark beetle which boars into the small branches at the top of the tree. The leaves turn yellow and then brown, remaining on the branch after they have wilted. Since there are other diseases that cause similar wilting, the only way to be sure that the problem is being caused by Dutch elm disease is to remove the branch and have a laboratory culture done.

The female native elm bettle lays her eggs between the bark and the wood in dead elm trees. Hence, the more dead trees there are in an area, the higher the beetle population. When the young beetles are mature they fly to healthy elms in the same vicinity and infect them with the spores they carry from the dead trees. Even elm wood that has been cut up for firewood is a potential hazard if it has bark to harbor the beetles.

Mr. Hildahl believes that the elm bark beetle may have come into Manitoba from south of the border and from Ontario on cars and clothing, in wood carried from one camp site to another, and on logs floated down the Red River.

He said that once Dutch elm disease becomes established in a tree, it is often only a matter of months before the tree is dead, unless something is done to control the disease. He mentioned a number of trees (25 to 30 inches in diameter) in which the disease was seen in some of the top branches in June. By the end of July all the trees were dead.

- (cont'd) -

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The Threat of Dutch Elm Disease (cont'd)

There is no cure for Dutch elm disease, but if it is caught in time, it can be arrested by a chemical injection, and healthy trees can be protected by this method. The drawback is that the injection process is expensive and does not give permanent protection. Good results have been obtained with benomyl mixed with water and injected into the roots under pressure, but the cost ranges from $150 to $200 for an average sized tree. It is about $300 for a large tree. The treatment, which has to be done at the first sign of the disease, is expensive because the injections are done right into the roots. It is the labor required to uncover and cover the roots that costs most of the money, not the chemical. Since these injections have to be given about every two years to protect the tree, the cost of protecting an average sized tree for 10 years would be about $1,000.

Mr. Hildahl said that early detection of the disease and good sanitation is the best way to minimize Dutch elm disease damage. By good sanitation, he means keeping the area free of dead and dying trees so that the elm bark beetles cannot become established.

The Manitoba Advisory Committee on Tree Protection recommends burning diseased trees on the site, whenever possible, to avoid spreading the beetles to other locations. If this is not possible, the committee says the tree should be sprayed with methoxychlor insecticide before being moved to kill the beetles, and it is a good idea to remove the tree in the late fall when the beetles have settled in the trunk for the winter. The wood can be either burned or buried and the stump should be removed three to four inches below the ground surface. To prevent any beetles from emerging, the excavation should be backfilled.

"When diseased branches are being removed from an otherwise healthy tree, great care should be taken to avoid spreading the disease to another part of the tree or to a healthy tree," Mr. Hildahl said. He recommends disinfecting pruning tools in 70 per cent alcohol between every cut.

Research is being carried out to find other chemicals for protecting elms against Dutch elm disease and to find a chemical that will eliminate the elm bark beetle.

- (cont'd) -

The Threat of Dutch Elm Disease (cont'd)

Scientists in Wisconsin, U. S. A. who have been working on resistant elm varieties have now developed a strain that appears resistant to the disease. Manitoba has ordered a number of the trees to see if they are winter hardy enough for the climate in Western Canada.

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December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORDERING FOUNDATION FORAGE SEED

The end of December is the deadline for ordering next year's forage seed requirements through the Canadian Forage Seed Project.

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, reports that there should be plenty of foundation seed available in most categories to fill all orders, providing requests are received before the annual meeting of the Canadian Forage Seed Project in early January. This is the time that seed allocations are made. Any seed that is left will be turned over to the seed trade if required or may be shipped to foreign markets.

In view of the forage seed industry's present position and the restriction that has been placed on the importation of non-pedigreed seed by a number of countries, Mr. Gareau recommends that forage seed growers in Alberta seriously consider growing certified seed for 1977. "The extra cost of purchasing foundation seed, required for certified seed production, will be more than repaid", he says, "by the seed's purity and freedom from weed seeds."

Application forms for ordering forage seed can be obtained from all district agriculturists who will forward the completed forms to Mr. Gareau at Alberta Agriculture's head office in Edmonton.

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December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOY TIME

by Jan Williams-Russel
District Home Economist
Alberta Agriculture

There's rarely a Christmas list made without a toy listed as a gift for a favorite little person. If you're ready to enter the stores in search of the perfect gift for a child, remember buying the right toy requires more than money.

You might like to prepare yourself by reading the October, 1975 issue of the Canadian Consumer. The Canadian Toy Testing Council presents its list of recommended toys. The toys are listed according to age span - infants and toddlers, preschoolers, early grade schoolers and older children. Under each category, the toy, the manufacturers, the price and general comments are listed.

Before you start looking, remember that children's play is important business. It's their "work" and a necessity for growth and development. A child's play and learning abilities are closely related. Toys are the "tools" children use to acquire skills, control and co-ordination.

Four categories of childrens' play trigger mental and physical development. They are physical play, creative and manipulative play, dramatic play and social play.

Buying Tips

Why do children often play with the box an expensive toy comes in rather than the toy? It's probably because the toy doesn't require them to do anything more than wind it up. Children need toys that inspire them to do something: push, build, clunk or use their imaginations. Children are interested in what makes a toy work and will probably break it apart to find out. You should select toys that actively involve the child.

- (cont'd) -

Toy Time (cont'd)

Toys that promote creativity and desirable social roles are good; for example, art supplies and blank paper rather than paint by numbers, or an average-looking doll instead of a sophisticated beauty. It's up to parents to decide if toys of violence such as guns and army games are suitable for their children. Some experts feel they are harmful; others say they are a healthy way to work off aggression.

Toys must be well built to withstand the tremendous pounding children give them. And a good toy should have more than one use. A cardboard box can be a boat, house or airplane to a youngster. Toys that can be used in only one way are usually soon discarded.

Toys should challenge children but not frustrate them. Buying strictly male or female toys is also not advisable. Girls may want to play with tools, erector sets and microscopes. Or maybe your boy would like to play with a toy vacuum cleaner -- or even a doll.

How Much?

The cost of toys varies from store to store as well as by season. To save, the Toy Manufacturer's Association suggest shopping around. Retailers increase inventories greatly during the Christmas season, and as it gets closer to the holidays, prices are likely to decline in order to move merchandise. But if you wait too long, you may not get the particular item you wanted.

Buying toys is not kid's stuff! Knowing how and what to choose can benefit you and your child, not to mention your pocketbook!

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December 1, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTENSION APPOINTMENTS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, J. G. Calpas, has announced the appointments of Frank Graves and Denis Kennedy to the positions of district agriculturist supervisors at High Prairie and Olds respectively.

A native of Foxwarren, Manitoba, Mr. Graves holds a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Manitoba (1949) and an M.Sc. in animal science from the University of Minnesota (1953). He received a post-graduate diploma in adult education and community development from the University of Saskatchewan in 1966.

Mr. Graves served with the RCAF from 1943-46. From 1951-55 he worked at the experimental farm in Brandon and as a livestock fieldman for Agriculture Canada. Between 1955 and 1958, he was a vocational agriculture supervisor in the Sturgis School Unit, Saskatchewan. He was appointed assistant district agriculturist at Camrose in 1958, and the following year assumed the position of district agriculturist at Spirit River. He held this position until 1967 at which time he became regional co-ordinator (Peace River Block) with ARDA.

Following a three-year stint with ARDA, Mr. Graves was appointed district agriculturist at Grande Prairie where he remained until his recent transfer to High Prairie.

Originally from Abbey, Saskatchewan, Mr. Kennedy moved with his family to Vauxhall, Alberta in 1960. After completing high school in Vauxhall, he attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1969 with a B.Sc. (agriculture).

Mr, Kennedy joined Alberta Agriculture in 1970 as assistant district agriculturist at Medicine Hat. Two years later he became district agriculturist at the same office and assumed the role of office chairman for the Medicine Hat extension office last year. He remained at this office until his present transfer to Olds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

The 1975-76 Canadian grain handling and transportation picture appears bright at the present time, mainly due to the fact that farmers' marketings have placed the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) in a position that enables it to take optimum advantage of transportation and handling facilities.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, David Walker, reports that exports of all classes of grain could reach about 650 million bushels this year, and that up to 200 million bushels of grain may have to be moved by rail to meet domestic requirements.

Movements of grain from country elevators is the most indicative measure of the performance of the total transportation system, and the record year in this respect was 1971-72 when about 1,020 million bushels were shipped. Since this is about 170 million bushels more than may be required to be moved this crop year, the 1975-76 crop year export and domestic requirements should be handled without undue trouble.

Although the physical facilities and the organization of the grain handling system are basically the same as they were in the 1971-72 record crop year, there are certain other differences between that year and the current crop year which could prove critical.

For example, the fact that much of the grain handled in 1971-72 was moved out of both available grain stocks and from the 1971 harvest meant that the crop year got off to a very good start with respect to the export movement of grain. This year's grain stocks, on the other hand, were at a very low level prior to harvest which naturally limited the level of exports during the first two months of the crop year.

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Alberta

Canadian Grain Handling and Transportation Situation (cont'd)

Up to the end of September at which time grain movements may have to be limited by available supplies, shipments from country elevators were running 70 million bushels below the level achieved during the same period in 1971-72. In the eight weeks following the end of September after which time the 1975 crop was available, 150.5 million bushels were shipped from country elevators compared with 176.1 million in the same period in 1971-72.

However, a more important point in relation to grain handling and transportation is farmers' grain delivery patterns. In the 1971-72 crop year farmers, being short of cash and not concerned about the level of their taxable income, delivered their grain promptly when the CWB opened quotas. Thus the CWB's transportation and export program plans were fairly straight forward.

During the last two years, however, farmers have tended to hold back grain deliveries. In both 1973-74 and 1974-75, 20 per cent of farmer grain marketings occurred during the last seven weeks of the crop year. In fact, 28 and 32 per cent of farmers' wheat marketings occurred in the last seven weeks of these two crop years.

Since this type of holdback on deliveries can prevent the full utilization of the grain handling and transportation system, and because of the need to meet immediate export commitments, the CWB provided very liberal quotas and expressed concern at harvest time with respect to the prompt delivery of board grains.

"The fact that producers responded to this request with immediate action on an unprecedented scale, augurs well for optimum of handling facilities this year," says Mr. Walker.

During the three weeks prior to October 8, a total of 137.6 million bushels of grain were marketed by farmers compared with only 60.1 million bushels during the same period a year ago. With these levels of marketings, it was inevitable that country elevators would become plugged, but large stocks of grain in country elevators help the CWB in its merchandizing program. It now appears to be in a good position to maintain and sustain high levels of grain movements to port positions for export.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. FARM INPUT COSTS

"Farm 'input' costs in the United States have risen to the point where they are discouraging demand and allowing some inventory build-up in a number of farm 'input' items."

This statement was made by Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, Don Macyk, who attended the United States Department of Agriculture's annual outlook conference in Washington, D.C.

He reports that fertilizer use in the U.S. dropped this year, but that production was higher than last year. The result is larger inventories and declining prices.

The farm price of anhydrous ammonia in mid-October, for example, averaged about $219 a ton and urea averaged $203 a ton, representing a 17 per cent drop from mid-June. Mr. Macyk expects these lower prices to attract a higher volume of purchases for the 1976 crop. However, this increase is not expected to be sufficient to diminish stocks to the point where there is a shortage. "This year's resistance to prices will probably mean U.S. fertilizer production in 1975 will exceed consumption," Mr. Macyk says.

The price outlook for farm machinery is still not bright, but production is catching up with demand in some types of equipment. Although price increases are likely, inventories ready for sale should return to more normal long-term levels by early 1976. This situation is expected to result in more stable prices.

According to Mr. Macyk, the wholesale price index for U.S. farm machinery rose 22 per cent from September 1973 to September 1974, but it rose only 11 per cent from September 1974 to September 1975.

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U.S. Farm Input Costs (cont'd)

He says pesticide use in the U.S. was relatively unchanged this year from 1974, but that pesticide production was up by about 10 per cent. Although low 'beginning stocks' for 1975 and distribution problems resulted in spot shortages of some pesticides in parts of North America, in general, there were sufficient supplies of most pesticides to meet the demand. Prices rose by 20 per cent from 1974 to 1975, compared with only 10 to 15 per cent in the previous year.

A build-up of stocks this year, an overall increase in industrial capacity and a continuing strong demand on the part of farmers, is likely to result in an overall price increase of about 5 per cent in 1976.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVAILABILITY OF HERBICIDES AND PRICE TRENDS FOR 1976

The 1976 herbicide supply should be adequate to meet the demand.

Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch reports that the chairman of the Alberta sector of the Canadian Agricultural Chemical Association, Al Sorenson, expects supplies of Carbyne and of the propionics to be greater than they were in 1975. He says supplies of the 2,4-D and MCPA herbicides should also be adequate. However, the supply of Avadex BW in the liquid and granular forms is expected to be short.

In making these predictions, Mr. Sorenson stressed that he was basing them on present anticipated supply and demand. He expects prices to remain near their current levels but said modest increases are possible.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRAYERFACTION

What was Sprayerfaction? It was a unique symposium designed to acquaint sprayer equipment manufacturers with Western farmers' requirements from their herbicide sprayers and to encourage the manufacturers to design equipment that will fulfill these needs.

Organized and hosted by Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, the symposium attracted the main manufacturers of sprayers and accessories from across Canada and a number of companies which intend to start sprayer manufacturing next year.

Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture and one of the organizers of the symposium explains that most sprayers now being manufactured are adequate for applying broad spectrum herbicides like 2,4-D and MCPA, but that they lack the precision necessary for the new herbicides that are designed to control specific weed species. "These new herbicides," says Mr. Footz, "require a sophisticated approach and very precise application equipment."

He reports that farmers have been complaining about the inability of present sprayer models to apply the specific herbicides that are coming on the market in greater numbers each year.

"It would be far more efficient and less expensive in the long run for farmers to buy a new sprayer if they could get one that was properly designed and equipped to apply the new herbicides than to try to fit out their old ones with a larger pump, larger hoses and larger nozzles (to reduce drift), special agitators and numerous other accessories.

"It appears that even if the cost of modern technology doubled the price of sprayers, farmers would still be willing to buy them if they could be counted upon to do the job efficiently and thoroughly."

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December 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZERO IN ON YOUR WEED PROBLEMS

Are wild oats interfering with your cropping plans? Perhaps it's Canada thistle taking over your pasture. The Alberta weed control course has the answers!

Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta's extension division, in co-operation with farm groups and industry, will be conducting an eight week weed control course early in 1976.

The course will zero in on weed problems of Alberta. In-depth information such as would normally be available only at agricultural colleges will be presented to registered students in their homes by mail and over television. The mailed lessons will contain information on weed identification, selecting chemicals, preventive weed control practices, handling difficult weeds and other problems. Selected topics will be illustrated for further clarification on Alberta Agriculture's weekly television program, "Farm and City Today" (FACT), starting on January 10.

A number of seminars are also planned in your region so that participants in the course will can discuss their weed control problems and obtain answers to their particular weed problems.

The registration fee is $10 payable to the University of Alberta. It covers all materials, textbooks and seminars. Registration will be limited to the first 2,500 applicants.

Above all, the organizers have tried to present practical, useful information for farmers, and other people interested in weed control. Details may be obtained from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, elevator agents and other chemical dealers, and from Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton. (Telephone number 427-5081)

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December 8, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MODULE COURSES BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Starting in January, Lakeland College in Vermilion will be offering a number of month-long module courses for farmers.

What is a module? It is a type of short course at the end of which the student has a basic understanding of the subject covered. This basic knowledge may be either a 'stepping stone' for further study or it may be sufficient to enable the student to take apprentice work in that area.

The modules being offered at Lakeland College are all suitable for students who are working towards Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate. This certificate is required by 'beginning' farmers who are interested in obtaining a farm credit loan.

Applicants who wish to enroll in Lakeland College's module courses must be 17 years old and have an average standing or better in Grade XI English and mathematics.

Following is a list of the module courses being offered and their starting dates. Each module consists of 6 hours of classes a day for 30 days. The classes that are bracketed together require 3 to 4 hours of classroom study a day and are taken together.

STARTING DATES	MODULES
January 5, 1976	Sheep Production
	Forage Crops Production
	Power Units
	Gas Welding
	Basic Carpentry
	Construction Estimating

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Module Courses Beginning in January (cont'd)

STARTING DATES	MODULES
February 2, 1976	Artificial Insemination
	Farm Management
	Machine Shop Techniques / Arc Welding
	Construction and Planning / Farm Building, Heating & Ventilation
March 1, 1976	Dairy Production
	Seed Crop Production
	Machinery Performance II / Advanced Welding
	Power Transmissions / Workers Safety
March 29, 1976	Machinery Performance I / Farm Building, Heating & Ventilation
	Metals & Synthetic Materials / Advanced Welding

Each module is worth approximately six credits. A total of 100 credits are needed for a General Agriculture Diploma.

Further information can be obtained from Lakeland College, Vermilion Campus, Vermilion, Alberta, T0B 4M0, telephone number 853-5366.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES SKILL PROGRAM

The Rural Education and Development Association (R.E.D.A.) has announced plans for a "Presidents and Secretaries Skill Program for Rural Alberta" to be held at Banff Centre from January 14 to 18.

The course is designed to provide a basis for individuals who wish to master idea organization and to achieve self-confidence in the areas of communication, public speaking, debating and dialogue. It is also designed to provide expertise in decision-making, to develop leadership abilities and to facilitate leader-group interactions.

Open to rural residents of all ages, the course is expected to be of particular benefit to people with limited knowledge and training in leadership. Hence, it should be very valuable to anyone interested in improving and using the skills of leadership for personal or community endeavors and to people who hold an executive position in their community.

The registration fee for the course is $70, and the deadline for receipt of applications (a maximum of 30 will be accepted) is January 2. Application forms should be sent to R.E.D.A., 9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1C4.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOPPING TREES

A row of poplars which have had their growth controlled by topping.

Topping, a method of controlling the growth of fast-growing trees, is not recommended except under very special circumstances, says Alberta Agriculture's tree specialist, Herman Oosterhuis.

This practice of removing the tops of trees like poplars and willows to control their growth, leaves these trees deformed for the rest of their lifespan. The tree reacts to having its top removed by producing a mass of new sprouts each year, which unless removed, develop into branches.

Topping also shortens the life of the tree because the large wound cannot usually be covered with a protective dressing. The result is that the wound does not heal over, leaving the tree subject to disease and lasting injury from decay.

Topping used to be practised on farmstead shelterbelts either to control their height or with the mistaken idea that this type of pruning would cause the trees to brush out. Unless it is absolutely necessary to control the high trees because they are interferring with a power line or other overhead obstruction, topping is definitely not recommended.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOVIET CROP FAILURE IMPLICATIONS

What are the implications of the worst grain crop the Soviet Union has harvested in a decade?

Earlier this year the Soviet planning committee set a target for grain production from the 1975 harvest of 216 million tonnes. Up until June, Western observers were generally unanimous in their opinion that this was realistic and attainable. However, a series of weather setbacks spoiled any chance of the Soviets reaping a harvest that would have been second only to the record 223 million tonne crop of 1973.

By October it was generally accepted that the Soviet crop had turned out just as poorly as that of 1972, and few observers expected the crop to yield much more than 160 million tonnes. However, recent information from Soviet sources suggests that the crop has yielded much less than even the most pessimistic has thought likely. It is now put at only about 137 million tonnes.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing analyst, Peter Perkins, says that the short-term results of this disastrously small crop will be negligible. This, he says, is because it has been known for many months that the Soviet crop was much smaller than planned, and the situation has been fully accounted for in the market place, as reflected by the reasonably strong grain prices since late summer. He points out that since July the Soviet Union has been trying to make up part of the shortfall by importing 30 million tonnes of grain. This is as much as her port and transportation facilities can handle. So far about 26 million tonnes have already been purchased from all sources.

When the Soviet-American grain pact was signed in mid-October, the U.S. informed the Soviets that they could buy another 7 million tonnes before the agreement became effective on October 1, 1976. Since then they have bought 2.7 million tonnes of U.S. corn and will presumably purchase the other 4.3 million tonnes sometime between now and October 1976.

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Soviet Crop Failure Implications (cont'd)

According to Mr. Perkins, the long-term effects of the Soviet crop failure are much less clear. "They will basically depend," he says, "upon the amount of livestock that is slaughtered this winter in an attempt to match feed requirements with available supplies. If a massive slaughter program is carried out, the demand for feed next year will be much lower than it was for this year, and import needs will be correspondingly reduced."

On the other hand, if the Soviets follow a more conservative slaughter policy, the future demand for grain import should remain strong. This means that even if the Soviets have a good crop next year, their grain supplies will be very short and need to be supplemented by imports to get them back to a satisfactory level.

Mr. Perkins reports that the condition of the Soviet winter wheat crop is 'mixed'. "In some areas," he says, "it is under satisfactory snow cover but crops in other areas have suffered winter-kill.

"One must wonder at the Soviet Union's desire to remain so dependent upon overseas grain supplies to assist them with their overall agricultural programs. They may just give up trying to increase the meat content of their populations' diet until they are self-sufficient in livestock feeds. Such a decision might explain why the Soviets are currently haggling and stalling over minor details in their trade negotiations, including their oil negotiations which are part of the grain deal with the United States. The oil negotiations are now not expected to be concluded for at least another two months.

"Similarily, a shipping accord that is a critical condition upon which American grain is shipped to the U.S.S.R., has yet to be finalized. Apparently, the Soviets want cheaper freight rates for grain moved in U.S. flag vessels."

December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGEST FARMER-OWNED CRUSHING PLANT TO OPEN SOON

The first phase of Canada's largest farmer-owned rapeseed crushing plant is scheduled to begin operations in northern Alberta in the new year.

Located at Sexsmith in the Peace River region, the plant is a joint venture between Northern Alberta Rapeseed Producers Co-operative Ltd. of Sexsmith (NARP Co-op) and Euro-Canada Trade Anlage H.G (ECA) of West Germany, and takes advantage of Canadian and German technology, engineering, finance and management. NARP Co-op Ltd will own 60 per cent of the plant and the West German group will own 40 per cent.

The cost of constructing the main plant (phase I) is $14.7 million. Approximately 3,300 farmers in the Peace River region of Alberta and British Columbia raised $6 million in less than 18 months. This $6 million is Alberta's share of the $10 million equity. The West German group contributed $4 million and the balance will be raised by mortgage funds.

Ed Hamula, Alberta Agriculture's marketing consultant, credits farmer enthusiasm and the Co-operative Associations Guarantee Act for being mainly responsible for the overwhelming support which the plant has received. Under this act a co-op member needs only a reasonable down payment to buy shares in a co-op. The co-op borrows the balance at at interest rate of prime plus one per cent. All loans taken out under the act are guaranteed by the provincial government.

NARP co-op members were permitted to buy shares at $1 each which entitled them to buy production units (one production unit for each share held). Costing $1,000 a unit, each unit entitles the holder to deliver 1,000 bushels of rapeseed during each year. He receives a minimum profit of 10.5¢, in addition to the street price on the day of delivery or sale, on each bushel he sells under his production unit to the plant.

- (cont'd) -

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Largest Farmer-Owned Crushing Plant to Open Soon (cont'd)

A farmer may buy any number of production units providing they do not exceed 5 per cent of the total number of units in the co-op. The idea of the production units is to ensure a steady supply of rapeseed for the crushing plant.

Second Phase

Construction of a rapeseed protein extraction plant (phase II) is scheduled to start in late 1976. The first of its kind in Canada, the plant is expected to cost in excess of $6 million and will use patented processes to greatly improve the feed and/or food value of rapeseed meal by increasing its protein content and removing toxic substances.

The NARP project also calls for a series of storage and handling depots to be set up at the following locations: Valleyview, Fort Vermilion, Hines Creek and Falher. Work has already started at these locations, and plans are being drawn up for at least another points to cover the B.C. block, Manning, Grimshaw and the Barrhead area.

This commodity gathering system, as it is called, is expected to cost over $2 million and to facilitate the handling of 4 to 5 million bushels of rapeseed a year. The rapeseed plant will process 9 million bushels a year when it becomes fully operational.

In addition to further ensuring that the plant will have a steady supply of rapeseed throughout the year, these storage and handling depots will mean that none of the plant shareholders will have to haul their rapeseed more than 50 or 60 miles to a delivery point. It is also envisaged that the depots will provide auxiliary services to co-op members in the form of seed and agricultural chemical supplies.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. - SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASE AGREEMENT

The U.S.S.R. has signed an agreement to purchase a minimum of 6 million tonnes of grain and a maximum of 8 million tonnes of grain from the U.S. over the next five years with no embargoes being imposed by the U.S. government. For amounts greater than 8 million tonnes they will have to negotiate. The agreement does not include a pricing arrangement and does not apply in the 1975-76 crop year. There is an escape clause for the U.S. in case of a poor harvest and limited grain stocks.

Theo Joesph, an international grains consultant from New York, speaking to the Canadian farm writers' convention in Regina said American farmers are angry about the agreement. He says they feel the deal puts the U.S.S.R. in a commanding position. The farmers are concerned that when the Soviet Union purchases their 6 or 8 million tonnes of grain they will go elsewhere for any excess needs and only come back to the U.S. for needed grain which cannot be purchased elsewhere. American farmers feel they are being made to pay for 'food stability'; they are being used as political pawns to stabilize world markets and lower food prices to American consumers, says Mr. Joseph.

Charles Gibbings, commissioner, Canadian Wheat Board, speaking at the same meeting, reminded Canadian farm writers that other countries, besides the Soviet Union and mainland China, purchase Canadian grain, in amounts equal to their purchases. Mr. Gibbings said "Whether or not the agreement (U.S.S.R. - U.S. grains agreement) will achieve the objective (stability) will depend a lot on circumstances quite outside the agreement itself. I hope it will have the desirable result as long as stability means our own farmers get the dollars they need to survive, thrive and contribute to the well-being of this country and mankind in general."

Dr. Alec Nove, a lecturer in Soviet studies at the University of Glasgow, said in Edmonton recently that the "average Soviet grain harvest is less than needed by a considerable extent. Therefore exporters of grain ought to be doing quite nicely for a number of years yet."

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. GRAIN OUTLOOK

An average price of nearly $4 a bushel could be realized by U.S. wheat producers for the rest of the crop year if present projected demand levels materialize.

This suggestion was made by American outlook economists at the United States Department of Agriculture's annual outlook conference which was attended by Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist Don Macyk.

Mr. Macyk reports that demand for wheat appears strong at the present time. The U.S. milling industry demand is picking up and export sales are strong, especially to the Soviet Union. Despite the fact that U.S. production at 2,138 million bushels was 19 per cent above last year's record crop, the overall world wheat production level is the same as last year. However, there is one uncertainty relative to demand. American wheat exports to date, apart from the Soviet Union, have been slow and importing countries appear to be reluctant to forward-purchase U.S. wheat.

According to Mr. Macyk, total U.S. export sales are expected to be 1.3 to 1.4 billion bushels (50 per cent of the world wheat trade), with 500 to 600 millions bushels of this total still to be committed. U.S. domestic use, including feed, is forecast at 700 million bushels, up 10 per cent from last year. If this demand is realized, stocks at the end of the present crop year will rise from about 320 million bushels to between 365 and 440 million bushels, a relatively modest stock level.

The demand for durum is the one weak link in the U.S. wheat situation. U.S. domestic use continues to lag because of the excessive price spread between the durum semolina flour and competing hard wheat flours. Durum stocks could build up to uncomfortably high levels, according to the outlook economists.

- (cont'd) -

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U.S. Grain Outlook (cont'd)

U. S. 1976 wheat production estimates range from 2 to 2.2 billion bushels, almost as much as this year's record production. It is generally believed that U.S. producers have responded to this fall's strong wheat market by planting a large winter wheat crop.

U.S. Soybean

With low soymeal prices relative to the past two years and increased livestock feeding forecast, some increase in soymeal use and price is expected in 1976.

This year's soybean crop, the second largest on record, plus a large carry-over from the last crop, has provided the U.S. with the largest ever supply of soybeans.

Total soybean crush in the U.S. is estimated at around 775 million bushels for the 1975-76 crop which is 70 per cent of industry capacity. It is an increase compared with the 1974-75 crop year, but a decrease compared with the long-term average of 80 per cent of industry's capacity.

Mr. Macyk says U.S. soybean exports are forecast to increase this winter from 421 million bushels last year to 475 million bushels. However, this figure is far below the 1973-74 record of 539 million bushels.

U.S. soyoil consumption is expected to increase but soyoil exports are expected to drop, mainly because of increased competition for world vegetable oil markets.

Mr. Macyk reports that concern about next year's soybean acreage was expressed at the conference. Current soybean prices are about 1.8 times corn prices, and economists suggest that the price must be 2.4 times that of corn if the present soybean acreage is to be maintained. Soybean shifts, mainly to cotton, are forecast for next year.

U.S. Flaxseed

Lower prices are predicted for U.S. flaxseed in 1976. Some increase in housing construction in the U.S. could spur increased use of linseed oil but in view of the 10 per cent increase in supplies and the likelihood of a similar increase in crushing, prices are not expected to improve.

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U.S. Grain Outlook (cont'd)

Feed Grains

The U.S. feed grain output (corn, sorghum, oats, barley) increased 24 per cent this year, but supplies are still only 16 per cent above last year's low level.

According to Mr. Macyk, indications point to an 8 to 15 per cent increase in the 1975-76 livestock feeding level, which is still well below two and three year-ago levels.

U.S. feed grain exports are expected to be up 20 to 33 per cent over last year, with the Soviet Union being the main importer.

Corn availability will be 25 per cent higher than last year in the U.S. but well below the 1972-73 level, Mr. Macyk says. Domestic use will be between 9 and 15 per cent above last year's level but short of feeding levels achieved prior to 1974.

Corn exports are projected at 1.4 to 1.5 billion bushels, well above last year's 1.15 billion bushels. The Soviet Union will again be the main customer. Exports to other than the U.S.S.R. are lagging behind last year mainly because buyers are reluctant to forward-purchase.

Farmer prices for the 1975-76 corn crop are expected to average between $2.50 and $2.75. Mr. Macyk points out that any variation beyond this range will almost certainly have a detrimental effect on the forecasted livestock feeding increase.

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December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. CATTLE & HOG OUTLOOK

The U.S. will end this year with the lowest fed beef production in the last 10 years.

Don Macyk, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, who attended the U.S. outlook conference in Washington, D.C., reports that this drastic drop in fed beef production resulted from an industry-wide response to the increased feeding costs which prevailed in the latter part of 1974 and continued through the third quarter of this year. Only about a half of the 1975 beef animals slaughtered originated in feedlots, Mr. Macyk says.

This year's U.S, beef production was up 3 per cent compared with 1974 as a result of a 10 per cent increase in slaughter numbers and a 6 to 8 per cent decrease in slaughter weights.

Cow slaughter was up nearly 50 per cent compared with last year. This high slaughter rate, plus a record high non-fed steer heifer and calf slaughter, could mean that the U.S. cattle population will stop growing and may even have decreased by the beginning of 1976 compared with the beginning of 1975.

The U.S. outlook for 1976, says Mr. Macyk, predicts more fed beef and less unfinished beef than in 1975. The January 1, 1976 cattle on feed inventory could be 20 per cent higher than a year ago and more of the lighter animals could be placed on feed.

According to Mr. Macyk, the American economists anticipate that the cattle industry in that country may stabilize in 1976. Even though there will be fewer cows calving next spring, the number of calves could be almost as large as this year as a result of the removal of the poor producers and 1975's increased heifer slaughter.

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U. S. Cattle & Hog Outlook (cont'd)

Pork

If late 1976 hog production in the U.S. approaches 1974 production levels, hog prices could be under $40 a hundredweight liveweight (under $57 dressed) by late next fall. However, this kind of turn around in the hog industry is likely to happen only if feed prices continue to move lower and finished hog prices continue at present levels.

Significant pork production increases are not likely until the second half of 1976. Current feed prices or lower prices, plus strong hog prices, could result in higher farrowings by the second quarter of next year. The economists anticipate $50 to $55 liveweight hog prices ($65 to $72 dressed) this winter because first quarter 1976 hog slaughter could be 14 to 16 per cent lower than the first quarter of 1975.

Mr. Macyk says some pick-up in farrowings is expected during the winter, but this increase will not result in more pork until the second-half of 1976. Second quarter farrowings hold the key to expanded pork supplies by the end of 1976.

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December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RATS!

What is Alberta's rat situation as 1975 draws to a close?

Cliff Barrett, Alberta Agriculture's rat control specialist, reports that despite a heavy 'push' of rats along the eastern border, Alberta is still essentially a rat-free province. He points out that the province is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year -- 25 years of freedom from rats!

Several dead rats arrived at a number of locations in the province last summer, via transport-action facilities, and live 'infestations' were discovered at three locations. Two of the infestations consisted of single rats, but the other was more serious. An unmated young female rat was killed at Grande Prairie and a large male rat was killed at Josephburg, near Edmonton. Both were Norway rats.

The third infestation was located in an Edmonton warehouse and consisted of 25 to 30 black rats which had come into the province in food containers from either the West Coast or the Orient.

The Edmonton infestation was one of the most serious that has been found in Alberta since the present rat control program was started in 1950. However, according to Mr. Barrett, the rats were soon cleaned out with traps and bait.

Mr. Barrett asks farmers and other residents along the eastern border to help guard Alberta's enviable rat-free reputation by checking their premises for any signs of rats before winter sets-in in earnest and by making sure that all bait stations are kept baited this winter.

Alberta Agriculture provides free bait to residents who live along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Anyone who needs guidance in baiting their premises should contact his local pest control office.

Mr. Barrett expresses his appreciation to the residents of this province for the high level of support they have given to the Alberta rat control program.

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December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MACHINERY DELEGATES MEET IN EDMONTON

Contracts for new and used equipment, the interchangeability and standardization of parts, and the differences in legislation between the three prairie provinces drew the most attention from the 23 representatives of prairie agricultural machinery boards which met recently in Edmonton.

The chairman of the three boards are Merv Johnson of Kindersley for Saskatchewan, Ed Hudek of Winnipeg for Manitoba, and Steve Haley of Edmonton for Alberta. Each provincial delegation included representatives of government, farmers, implement dealers and manufacturers.

Don Lehman of Saskatchewan, Roy Chinn of Manitoba, and Bob McFadyen of Alberta were appointed to a study committee. They will study and make recommendations to the tri-province body related to the development of a uniform format for new and used equipment sales contracts.

Other areas of mutual concern among the members of the prairie farm machinery boards include the date stamping of farm machinery, parts availability, transportation, and warranty on farm equipment.

Delegates reported a general improvement in parts availability over last year although some difficulty is still being experienced in specific areas.

The Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute Emergency Part Shipment Identification (EPSI) sticker was introduced to the meeting and members gave their full support to its concept and use. Educational programs to clarify the use of the symbol will take place in the near future.

The meeting concluded on the note that members would meet on an annual basis to discuss mutual problems and would work towards joint solutions that will improve the industry.

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December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTRODUCING MARKET GARDENING

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch is holding two one-day courses early in the new year for commercial market gardeners who have just recently started in the business and for people who are planning to start market gardening on a commercial scale. The courses are not intended for people who grow vegetables for their own use.

The first course will be held in the Youth Building at the Exhibition Grounds in Edmonton on January 27. The second will be held in Room B of the Agriculture Building at the Exhibition Grounds in Calgary on February 10.

Both courses will cover the basics of commercial market gardening. These include soil management, seeding, transplanting, weed control, harvesting and marketing. There will also be discussions on production problems caused by such things as insects and diseases in root crops, vine crops, legumes, corn etc.

One section of each course will be devoted to a discussion on the recommended market garden size for a beginner, things he should consider when deciding the location of his garden and the most appropriate vegetable crops for a beginner to grow.

The registration fee for the courses is $5. Application forms must be submitted during the first part of January. Course attendance will be limited to about 60 participants.

To obtain an outline of the course agenda and an application form contact R. M. Trimmer, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (telephone 427-5337) or Tom Krahn, Alberta Horticultural Research Centre, Brooks, Alberta (telephone 362-3391).

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December 15, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CATTLE INDUSTRY

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Marvin E. Moore has announced a new insurance program for the cattle industry. The new program will replace the Livestock Disaster Indemnity Program for cattle, except for present provisions which apply to predator losses, which will still be under the jurisdiction of the department.

The program was developed through close co-operation and co-ordination between the government and private industry. The underwriting of the insurance, sales and adjustment of claims shall be the responsibility of the private sector. The Alberta Government will provide a "stop loss" provision, thereby allowing the the lowest possible premium rates to Alberta farmers. The government will also provide a Board of Arbitration to decide settlement of difficult claims.

The program is specifically designed as insurance against disaster losses rather than total protection against all losses. The premium rate is estimated to be about 50¢ per $100 of value of insured. Coverage includes specific perils, such as loss of animals from drowning, fires, electrocution, lightning, legume bloat on pasture, vandalism, wind, storm, hail, theft, poisoning, transportation by farm trucks, blizzards, and stress therefrom, and new diseases from which there is no known control.

Participation in the program necessitates insuring of the entire herd. Calves of six months of age are automatically insured by coverage on dam and considered at one-third of the value of the normal claim. Payments will not come into effect until losses from any one cause exceed 10 per cent of the herd, with a minimum deductible of four head and maximum deductible of 30 head for herds exceeding 300 animal units. Claims will only be paid on 80 per cent of losses.

More details on the program will be released when the program is implemented in early 1976.

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AGRI·NEWS

CANADIANA

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas from the Communications Branch

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta

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MUNICATIONS

December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

by Susan Mayse, Information Officer
Alberta Agriculture

Merry Christmas!

All the hours and weeks of preparation are finally over, and the great day has arrived. Houses are lovingly decorated, the family is gathered, and all are full of the excitement and importance of Christmas. Carefully handmade or thoughtfully chosen gifts haven been presented, or wait under the sparkling, decorated tree.

This is the dream of Christmas, and very often it's a dream come true. Christmas is the family time, when sons and daughters and mothers and fathers spread all across the country find a way home. It's a time for sharing.

The pleasures and beauty of the occasion don't obscure the origin of Christmas. Today is also the day we mark the birth of Jesus, the founder and spirit of Christianity. Not all countries celebrate Christmas, of course: but followers of Islam, Judaeism and Eastern religions respect Jesus as a prophet and great teacher.

Yet this spiritual leader who has changed the flow of history for the last 2,000 years was born humbly. He was born in a livestock shed, to a carpenter's wife.

Throughout the years of his life, Jesus taught us to show concern and tolerance for others; and he said to treat others only as we ourselves would like to be treated.

His follower, Paul, said the most important things of all are faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

In our peaceful and prosperous country, it's not difficult for most of us to know faith and hope. But what about love?

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If we're fortunate, love is a reality in our families, and among close friends. Yet it can be carried further, and without wearing thin; in affection, tolerance and understanding for others.

Which brings us back to sharing, and the Christmas spirit. Hopefully, we're all sharing this special day with others, even a small family group. For anyone alone today --- don't stay alone; it's not necessary. There are centres and clubs and individual families who would be glad to see you.

Tomorrow comes soon, but don't let Christmas or the sharing die with today; carry it with you throughout the year.

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December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS IN FORT McLEOD IN 1876

Life was rugged and hard in Alberta in 1876 but this did not stop the officers and men of the North-West Mounted Police from celebrating Christmas at Fort McLeod in the traditional manner.

"A third Christmas season had arrive. Following the October and November snows, a Chinook wind brought a spell of glorious weather from beyond the mountains. Heavy outer clothing was discarded and the little hub of activity on the Old Man's River basked in sunshine.

"The big event was Christmas dinner. Three cooks were busy for several days, ably assisted by several constables, especially by Cst. George Callaghan who was a chef in his own right.

'Each member of the command had chipped in to pay for extras such as butter at 75 cents per pound and eggs at $6.00 per dozen. When all was ready full justice was done to buffalo roasts, beef, venison, wild goose, plum pudding and pies of various kinds. There was little in the way of spirited beverages.

'After dinner a programme of songs and speeches took place, interspersed by the best efforts of Piper Donald MacAuley. Among the outstanding speeches was one given by William Gladstone, a civilian carpenter. John Smith, rancher and horse herder, a veteran of the American Civil War, 'brought down the house' with his songs. . . . . .

" Abel Farwell, the mail carrier from Fort Benton, brought in a large Christmas and New Year's mail, and this added to the jovial spirit prevailing."

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Source:Turner, John Peter
The North-West Mounted Police 1873-1893
Volume I. Ottawa, King's Printer, 1950.

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December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FESTIVE FOODS

Do you want something different for Christmas this year? Do you want something that is quick and easy to make?

Here are some festive recipes submitted by Alberta Agriculture's nutrition and food marketing branch and district home economists.

Holiday Pudding

This pudding is easy on the budget, but still special. The grated carrot gives it a bright cheerful appearance, while the orange rind and ginger gives it a delicious zest. It is very good with orange or custard sauce.

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 1 tbsp. grated orange rind
- 3 tbsp. orange juice
- 1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground ginger

Cream the butter and gradually beat in sugar. Add egg and beat until fluffy. Stir in carrots, orange rind and juice. Sift remaining ingredients and stir into creamed mixture. Spread the batter evenly in a greased 8-inch square pan and bake in a 80°C (350°F) oven until an inserted skewer comes out clean (about 30 minutes). Serve warm with sauce. This recipe makes 6 servings.

Custard Sauce for Holiday Pudding

- 2 eggs or 4 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 - 1 cup skin milk powder
- 3/4 cup cold water
- 1 cup hot water
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Beat eggs. Add sugar, salt and skin milk powder and blend with cold water. Gradually stir in hot water. Cook sauce over hot water, stirring until it is thick enough to coat a silver spoon. Remove it immediately from heat. When cool, stir in vanilla. This recipe makes 2 2/3 cups of sauce.

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Festive Foods (cont'd)

Almond Turkey Chop Suey

2 tbsp. butter
1 cup sliced celery
1 cup sliced mushrooms
2 tbsp. soysauce
1 tbsp. sugar
salt
2 cups diced cooked turkey
1 cup diced onions
1 cup diced carrots
1 tbsp. corn starch mixed with 2 tbsp. cold water
cooked almonds

Melt butter in large skillet. Add celery, onion, and carrots; cook for 3 minutes. Add turkey and mushrooms. Cover and cook for 10 minutes more. Add small quantity of water and turn to prevent burning. Add sugar, soysauce and salt to taste. Thicken with corn starch. Garnish with almonds. Serve on hot fluffy rice. This recipe makes 5 to 6 servings.

Turtles

2 - 7 oz. pkg. vanilla caramels
1 1/2 tbsp. butter
2 tsp. butter
72 pecan halfs (1/4 pound)
few grains salt.

Melt caramels and the butter in a double boiler. Heat oven to 65°C (300°F), melt the 2 tsp. butter on cookie sheet or shallow pan. Stir in nuts and salt. Let toast for 15 minutes. Arrange pecans on buttered sheet. Spoon on caramel mixture and top with chocolate. (choc. chips may be used). Half melt chips on heat, remove and stir until smooth, then put on nuts. It takes about ½ cup of choc. chips. This recipe makes 2 dozen turtles.

After Dinner Mints

1 lb. icing sugar
white of I egg (frothy but not stiff)
7 drops of oil of peppermint
1 tbsp. cream
red and green coloring

Blend ingredients together and knead until the consistency of a soft dough. Separate into 3 lots. Color one red, one green and leave one lot white. Form into small balls, place on wax paper and flatten with fork. Let stand 2 to 3 hours before serving. This recipe makes 3 to 4 dozen mints.

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Festive Foods (cont'd)

Hot Spiced Percolator Punch

3 cups unsweetened pineapple juice
3 cups cranberry juice cocktail
1 ½ cups water
1/3 cup brown sugar
1 ½ tsp. whole cloves
1 stick cinnamon, broken
1/8 tsp. salt

Combine all ingredients except cloves, cinnamon and salt in an automatic percolator. Place cloves, cinnamon and salt in basket. Allow to go through the perk cycle. Serve piping hot.

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December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMER'S LETTER TO SANTA

Old Santa sat in his easy chair, reading his letters from here and there,
When all of a sudden "AHA" said he, The Alberta Farmers have written to me.

I suppose they want a new fangled plow, or maybe some sort of a special cow,
Oh well, he sighed, and shook his head, then opened the letter and slowly read:

Dear Santa:

We know we're asking for quite a lot, but there are so many things we haven't got,
So we thought we'd ask you to try and find these gifts for us that we have in mind.

A few less hoppers and a bit less rain, when harvest time rolls around again.
We're tired of hail and wind storms here, so you needn't bother with them this year.

Give us higher prices for eggs and cream, and lower prices for gasoline,
Give us plenty of markets for all our grain, and a good cattle market once again.

This is our list and at the top, what we really want is a bumper crop,
And just one more thing ere your patience cracks, give us strength to master the income tax.

Santa laughed and put the letter away, then stepped outside to look at the sleigh,
And right on top by the dolls, pretty charmers, he placed a box of GOOD LUCK for Alberta Farmers!

Author: Unknown
Source: Vegreville District Home Economist Newsletter, 1974.

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December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY

by Dr. Ulf Soehngen
Supervisor of Apiculture
Alberta Agriculture

Honey, man's oldest sweet, takes on a special significance during the Christmas season, when it is used in many traditional dishes and pastries as well as for making mead (honey wine).

Honey was the only concentrated sweet widely available in prehistoric times, and fermented honey may well have been man's first common alcoholic drink, long before the cultivation of fruit or grain crops. The earliest evidence to-date of man's interest in honey is a paleolithic rock painting in eastern Spain, dated around 7000 B.C. It shows two people using a ladder and a honey container - but no personal protection against the stings of infuriated insects - to rob honey from a cavity in a cliff. Another rock painting - this one in southern Africa - shows the early use of smoke in subduing the bees.

From the mere gathering of honey, man progressed to claiming ownership of isolated colonies located in forests or in cliffs - a first step towards honey production as we now know it. Moving sections of logs containing honeybee nests to centrally located 'apiaries', and the provision of hollow logs (bee gums) and other containers to settle honeybee swarms in specific locations became beekeeping practices. These are still used in some parts of the world today.

Through the years beekeeping became a trade which, in many parts of the world, was often governed by special rules not applicable to the population at large. Beekeepers, for example, often paid their taxes in honey and wax, and are said to have been exempt from military service in some parts of Medieval Europe.

Honey was known and used in nearly all countries of the Old World. Already the ancient Babylonians used honey as a medicine, and the Hittites (1400 B.C.) left records showing not only the price of honey, but also the fines that had to be paid for stealing honey and beehives.

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Alberta
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Honey (cont'd)

In ancient Egypt, honey was used not only in religious rites and for the feeding of sacred animals, but also for the preservation of some bodies after death. Much honey was imported into ancient China from the West in exchange for silk. A lively trade in honey was also carried on in certain parts of Medieval Europe where honey was used both as a source of food and in the production of mead.

In the Western Hemisphere, which contains no indigenous honeybees, honey was produced in Central and South America by the natives, using stingless bees. The Mayas were especially expert in beekeeping and produced considerable quantities of the sweet material. In North America, however, honey was unknown to the natives. When the honeybee was first introduced into eastern North America conditions were so favorable that it spread westward far more rapidly than the land was settled.

Nevertheless, it was not until the latter part of the 19th century, when a practical hive with movable frames (permitting beekeepers to remove each comb from the hive for inspection) was developed, that honey production came into its own as an industry. Since the turn of the century beekeepers have learned, through experience and research, to manage honeybee colonies in such a way that under favorable conditions a surplus (to the needs of the colony) of 200 pounds (or more) of honey may be obtained from one hive.

Honey is not merely a simple solution of sugars in water. It is a complex mixture that includes a variety of sugars as well as a number of organic and inorganic components. Of the sugars, glucose (grape sugar), fructose (fruit sugar) and sucrose (cane sugar) are nearly always present. Their proportions, as well as those of severel less common sugars, vary with the plant species from which the honey originated. A number of organic acids, amino acids and proteins, vitamins, enzymes and minerals have also been identified in honey as have pigments and compounds that influence the aroma and flavor of honey.

Since the make-up of a honey sample depends not only on the type of plant from which it was derived, but is also influenced strongly by the conditions under which the plants grew, honeys from different plant crops (and in different locations) will often look, smell, and taste very different.

- (cont'd) -

Honey (cont'd)

In fact, it is sometimes possible for an expert to distinguish between honeys of various origins on the basis of aroma and taste alone.

A more accurate way to determine the plant source(s) of a honey sample is to check the pollen grains, which are nearly always found in honey, under the microscope. Most plant groups have pollens with characteristic shapes, and it is usually not difficult for a specialist to determine the types of plants that contributed to a given honey sample.

While nearly all of the honey produced in Alberta is very light in color, and is internationally recognized as being of the first quality, honey obtained in some other areas may be very dark, or almost black. This does not mean, however, that such honey is of second quality, or that it is nutritionally inferior. In fact, dark honeys are often preferred by consumers of European (especially German) ancestry! It is difficult, however, without resorting to chemical tests, to distinguish between naturally dark honey, and honey that has been darkened by overheating during processing. Fortunately, such abuse of honey is rare.

In order to protect their consumers, most honey importing countries follow a set of standards - with certain variations (the "Codex alimentarius") against which all honey that is to be imported must be graded. The Codex includes several specified chemical tests to guard against damage that cannot otherwise be detected.

Honey that is to be sold interprovincially within Canada must be graded according to regulations set out by the federal government. These include a numerical rating (Canada No.1, Canada No. 2 etc.) based on quality and a color designation such as "water white", "white", "golden", etc.

The next time you bite into a ginerbread cake, or drink a glass of mead, take a second to remember the small insect with the long history - and its keeper - who have helped to make your Christmas more enjoyable.

Alberta
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December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WEEPING FIG

The weeping fig is a popular house plant in Edmonton this season.

A member of the same family as the rubber tree, the weeping fig is an equally suitable house plant. It grows four to six feet tall and has two to four-inch long, pointed, shiny leaves which grow on slender, arching branches.

The foliage of the Java fig, a variety of the weeping fig, is even more "weeping"than that of the weeping fig and the leaves have a slight twist to them.

Fig trees grown as house plants do well in temperatures ranging from 18° to 27° C and like bright, indirect lighting. The soil in which they are growing should be kept slightly moist, but care should be taken not to overwater the plant.

According to phone calls received by Arlene Chesney, Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, yellowing and dropping leaves is a common problem in fig trees which have just been purchased. She says a change of environment or insects is usually the cause of the problem in this case.

She strongly recommends checking all new house plants for insects, washing their leaves with soap and water (rinsing in clear water) and isolating the plants from other plants for about a week.

December 22, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Did you know that it takes more than an hour for the effects to wear off of a 12-ounce bottle of beer, a three-ounce glass of wine or an ounce and a half of hard liquor?

The Alberta Safety Council advises people who have to drive their car after a Christmas party to limit their drinks to one an hour and to always allow an hour between their last drink and getting into their car to drive home.

If you are the host of a Christmas party, remember you are not doing your guests a favor by pressuring them to 'have one for the road'. Instead, if you feel they have had more to drink than is safe, offer them a cup of coffee. Coffee will not sober anybody up, but it will lengthen the time between his last drink and driving his car. Time is the crucial factor in sobering up.

The Alberta Safety Council reminds social drinkers that even though they may feel they are the greatest drivers in the world, their ability to operate a car safely can be impaired when their blood contains only .05 per cent of alcohol. This level is well below the legal limit.

The Canada Safety Council reports that research studies have shown that even though an alcohol impaired driver may be able to concentrate enough to drive his vehicle down the highway and to react to information transmitted by a highway sign or lights, his brain's ability to assimilate information outside these areas is severely limited. Cars approaching from a side road, for example, or pedestrians stepping off a side walk will not be noticed, according to these studies.

If you have certain medical conditions or are taking prescription drugs, you should always check with your doctor to make sure that it is safe for you to drink at all when driving. Certain drugs when combined with alcohol can spell disaster!

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Alberta
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AGRI·NEWS

December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM HOME LENDING PROGRAM

Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) offices throughout the province are now accepting application forms for loans under the Alberta Housing Corporation's Farm Home Lending Program.

The loans are designed to help bona fide farmers finance a new farm home costing up to $42,000, to renovate an existing home, to relocate a home or to buy a mobile home. The maximum loan for a new home is the total estimated cost of the home or $35,000, whichever is less.

The interest on these loans is compounded semi-annually at the Alberta Housing Corporation's normal mortgage rate which, at the present time, is 10 3/4 per cent. Both the interest rate and mortgage payments are constant for the first five years, after which the borrower will have to renegotiate the interest rate.

Interest rate reduction will be granted in a separate agreement in cases where the applicant's 'adjusted' gross income is less than $12,000. However, an applicant's income must be sufficient in the Alberta Housing Corporation's opinion to enable him to pay the loan installments as they become due as well as to meet his living expenses and other financial obligations.

The loans are repayable in equal monthly, quarterly or semi-annual installments of interest and principal. Depending upon the expected life of the house, they are amortized over a 15 to 40-year period.

All loans must be secured by a promissory note. Apart from loans for home improvements of $5,000 or less and amortized over less than five years, all loans must also be secured by a registered mortgage. The mortgage may be a second mortgage. A mortgage on a purchaser's interest in land being bought under an agreement for sale is also acceptable as backing for a loan under the Farm Home Lending Program.

Further information on the program may be obtained from all local AADC offices and from district Alberta Housing Corporation offices.

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MILK PRODUCERS FACE RESTRICTIONS

The chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board, S. H. Thomas, warns provincial dairymen against making any commitments or plans for increasing their milk production in 1976 unless they are able to secure additional quota through transfer from someone who is disposing of his quota.

This restriction in dairy production has come about as a result of weakening domestic demand for dairy products, decreasing export sales, increased milk production and a reduction in federal government funds for dairy support.

"With the demand for milk products down in both domestic and export markets, Canada's total market share quota must be restricted to balance the demand," Mr. Thomas explains. "It will mean that quotas will have to be reduced or held to the 1975-76 level during the 1976-77 dairy year."

Any overall reduction of market share quota in Canada will naturally affect Alberta's position. The Alberta Dairy Control Board forecasts that this province and the other provinces in Canada will barely have enough quota to cover production during the 1975-76 dairy year. Hence, it is very unlikely that there will be any quota for increased production during the 1976-77 dairy year. Mr. Thomas says "Dairymen can assume that their 1976-77 market share quota will be somewhere near the amount of their shipments in 1975-76."

Following is a quote form the Canadian Dairy Commission's announcement in November 1975 regarding the 11 per cent increase in milk produced for manufacturing purposes (eligible for subsidy) from April to August of that year. The Canadian Dairy Commission had allowed for only a 5 per cent increase.

"In view of the increase in production and the necessity to remain within the budget, the commission beginning with September will reduce the payment to 75 per cent of deliveries. Should this trend in the production pattern reverse, then the percentage pay-out can increase; conversely, should production continue to increase, the percentage pay-out can decrease proportionately. The commission will make a year-end reconciliation based on annual shipments.

-(cont'd) -

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Milk Producers Face Restrictions (cont'd)

"The commission is calling on every provincial marketing agency and producer to play their part in reversing the present trend so that production can fall into line with the present market requirements."

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEBISCITE ON POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF ALBERTA EGG & FOWL MARKETING BOARD

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council is conducting a plebiscite to see whether egg producers want the Egg and Fowl Marketing Board to continue in operation.

The plebiscite is being held in response to a petition signed by more than 10 per cent of the egg producers in the province who are dissatisfied with the board's present operations.

All egg producers who were registered with the board on November 18 are eligible to vote, providing they have not been granted an exemption from board regulations, and providing they complete and return a voting registration form to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council office on or before January 6, 1976.

Eligible producers who complete and return their voting registration form to the council by the deadline will receive a ballot which must be completed and returned to the marketing council office on or before February 4. Ballots will be counted in the marketing council office on February 5.

Anybody who has a question regarding the plebiscite should contact the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone 427-2164).

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP RETENTION PROGRAM

Alberta sheep producers who purchased ewes or ewe lambs in 1975 or who retained ewe lambs in that year to increase their flock size by the addition of good quality breeding stock are eligible for assistance under Alberta Agriculture's Sheep Retention Program.

This program replaces the Ewe Lamb Retention Program which provided for a payment of $10 for every top quality ewe lamb retained in 1974 for breeding purposes. The new program provides for a payment of $15 for each ewe or ewe lamb purchased in 1975 and for each ewe lamb retained in 1975 to increase the owners' flock.

The purpose of the program is to increase Alberta sheep production to meet the rapidly expanding demand for fresh lamb in both Eastern and Western Canadian markets.

If you want to apply for assistance under the Sheep Retention Program you should contact Dr. T. J. Taylor before Feburary 18. His address is Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. Dr. Taylor will send you a registration form to fill out which must be returned to his office by March 11, after which your flock will be inspected.

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1975 SPECIALIZED FIELD CROP PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

The year 1975 could be termed a 'maintenance year' for special crop production in Alberta, says Alberta Agriculture's special crops analyst, Don Macyk.

He believes that farmers shied away from expanding special crop production because of the good returns they were able to realize from production of the more traditional cereal and oilseed crops.

Fresh and Processing Vegetables

Alberta's commercial fresh vegetable acreage for 1975 was 1,630, which is the same as that of 1974. The sweet corn acreage totaled 650, up 100 acres from last year; cabbage at 220 was down 30 acres; carrots at 400 were up 75 acres; rutabagas at 190 were down 10 acres, cucumbers at 120 were down 5 acres and onions at 50 were down 125 acres.

The above acreages do not include the market garden sector which expanded during the past few years. The number of market garden operations of about 5 acres increased and there were 600 to 800 acres of garden produce grown for sale at the farm gate.

Mr. Macyk notes that Alberta's vegetable industry appears to be moving towards supplying a larger proportion of the province's 'in season' vegetable requirements through farm gate sales and commercial marketing channels.

Alberta's processing vegetable production could have increased in 1975 through higher contract commitments but the wet, cool spring in southern Alberta's processing vegetable belt (Lethbridge, Taber and Bow Island) prevented any increase.

The 1975 processing vegetable acreage was nearly 7,000 acres. The corn acreage was 2,400; peas, 3,900; beans, 470; carrots, 125 and beets, 60. About 800 acres of the 1975 corn crop were lost because of poor harvesting conditions.

- (cont'd) -

Phone (403) 427-2127

1975 Specialized Field Crop Production in Alberta (cont'd)

Mr. Macyk believes that a growing interest in Alberta's vegetable processing industry, new producers, increased production requirements and reasonable returns to growers point to the continuation of a strong vegetable processing industry in the south of the province.

Potatoes

Alberta's 1975 potato production declined for the second consecutive year. In fact, both the acreage and the number of growers fell to their lowest levels in the last decade.

Statistics Canada estimates for protatoes 'grown mainly for sale' put the 1975 Alberta acreage at 18,000 acres, down from 1974's 23,000 acres. Total production was projected at 3.25 million hundredweight, which is nearly 7.5 per cent of Canada's tota' potato production. Although the figure represents the same proportion of the national total as in 1974, it is down from the past five-year average of 9 per cent.

Poor spring seeding conditions, increasing input costs, high labor and machinery requirements and 1974's low prices were all responsible for the decline in production. However, Mr. Macyk thinks that last fall's price levels should prove sufficiently attractive to at least maintain the 1975 production level through 1976.

Sugar Beets

Alberta's 1975 sugar beet production is expected to be about 500,000 tons, which is about 95 per cent of the 1974 production and about 88 per cent of the last 10-year average. Seeding intentions pointed to a production of about 46,000 acres, but a combination of a wet spring and a cool summer cut this acreage to about 40,000.

Fababeans

Alberta's 1975 fababean production was about 10,000 acres, 75 to 80 per cent of which was put up as silage. The remaining 2,000 to 2,500 acres were harvested for use as commercial seed and protein supplement.

- (cont'd) -

1975 Specialized Field Crop Production in Alberta (cont'd)

Until earlier maturing varieties become available, fababeans grown in Alberta will probably be mainly used for silage.

Field Beans

Approximately 3,900 acres of field beans were grown in Alberta in 1975, mostly in the Bow Island area. This was nearly twice as many as were grown in 1974. It is expected that the 1976 acreage will be about 5,000 acres.

Field Peas

The field pea acreage held steady in 1975 with about 24,000 acres seeded, mainly in the Brooks, Coronation and Sedgewick areas. Alberta grows about a third of Canada's field peas, and half of this acreage is grown under contract for seed.

Forage Seeds

The overall 1975 acreage devoted to forage seed production was lower than in 1974. However, reduced production was offset to some extent by higher yields.

Alfalfa seed production, for example, increased from 1 million pounds in 1974 to 1.9 million pounds in 1975. Bromegrass increased from 1.5 million to 2 million pounds, while crested wheatgrass at 0.6 million pounds remained the same as in 1974.

The 1975 alsike production is estimated at 3.5 million pounds compared with 4.7 million pounds in 1974. Red clover dropped from 3.1 million to 2.5 million pounds and timothy decreased from 1.6 million pounds to 1.1 million pounds. Creeping red fescue is estimated at 15 million pounds, down from an estimated 18.5 million pounds in 1974 and 26.1 million pounds in 1973.

December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL INPUT COSTS IN ALBERTA

Reports received by the Agricultural Input Monitoring System in Alberta indicate that farm 'input' prices continued to increase during the latter part of 1975.

Following are price and supply trends of farm 'inputs' monitored by Alberta Agriculture and Unifarm for the five-month period from May to October.

Although price increases for farm machinery and power vehicles for the period were smaller than they had been in the latter part of 1974 and the early part of 1975; tractor, combine, cultivator, double disc and half-ton truck prices increased by an average of 2 to 4 per cent.

Paul Barlott, Alberta Agriculture's systems engineer, reports that the supply of farm machinery in Alberta appears to have improved somewhat compared with 1974 but still remains only poor to fair

The cost of machinery maintenance, repairs and operation increased from May to October. October prices for tires and V-belts were approximately 2 to 8 per cent higher than in May, while storage battery prices remained the same as in May.

The average price of purple gasoline (less 10¢ per gallon federal excise tax) and diesel fuel was 6 to 7 per cent higher than in May, while the price of propane was approximately 24 per cent higher. However, antifreeze prices dropped by approximately 11 per cent from May to October. During the same period the cost of mechanical service (shop charge including labor) increased by about 8 per cent.

Mr. Barlott says the supply of all these products and services remained good throughout the five-month period.

Baler twine prices dropped approximately 30 per cent from May to October and supply remained good. Both the price and supply situation represented a considerable improvement compared with the situation in 1974 and in the early part of 1975.

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Agricultural Input Costs in Alberta (cont'd)

Prices reported for building, fencing and construction materials varied throughout the province from May to October, but lumber and plywood sheathing prices were 15 to 17 per cent higher in October than they had been in May. The supply remained good. Cement prices in October were approximately 13 per cent higher than they had been in May and supply decreased. Availability of cement in May was good but poor in October.

The price of plastic pipe remained the same for the five-month monitoring period and the supply was good. October prices for re-inforcing rods were about 9 per cent lower than in May, and the price of barbed wire was 13 to 14 per cent lower than in May. The supply of rods and barbed wire remained fair to good.

Livestock feeds and supplies varied in both price and availability from May to October. Prepared feed prices flutuated throughout the period, while October prices for calf starter supplements, dairy supplements and cattle minerals were similar to those reported in May. The October price for hog concentrates was approximately 8 per cent higher than in May, while the price of poultry concentrate was about 5 per cent higher than in May.

Feed barley prices remained fairly level throughout the May to October period, but hay prices were approximately 22 per cent higher in October than in May.

October prices for vitamin A D E combination and tetracycline were one to 2 per cent higher than in May, while prices for penicillin were 4 to 5 per cent higher than in May.

Availability of livestock feeds and supplies remained good to excellent during the five-month period except for hay and tetracycline where availability remained fair to good.

According to Mr. Barlott, most crop production supply prices were higher in October than in May. Fertilizer prices were 13 to 15 per cent higher in October than in May. October prices for 2,4-D were approximately 17 per cent higher than in May, while prices for Avadex BW were about 2 per cent higher than in May.

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Agricultural Input Costs in Alberta (cont'd)

Fertilizer and chemical supplies improved from May to October and were reported to be fair to good in October.

Seed wheat and barley prices remained the same for the five-month period with supply remaining fair to good.

Information on 'input' prices and availability up to May 1975 is contained in a publication entitled "Agricultural Input Prices, Price Indices and Availability in Alberta". It can be obtained from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOVIET AGRICULTURE

Dr. Alex Nove, a professor of Soviet studies at the University of Glascow, says there is a paradox in Soviet agriculture; it costs the country a great deal yet the production is unable to meet the requirements of the Soviet people.

In a recent public lecture at the University of Alberta he reminded his audience that there has been striking advances in Soviet agriculture over the past 20 years,but still production is insufficient to supply the type of varied diet the Soviet people have begun to feel is their right. The Soviet people have come to expect more than bread and potatoes; they want meat.

Because of the political situation (riots occured last time meat prices were raised) the meat price has not been increased in the past 15 years yet all around the world the price of meat has increased. Dr. Nove estimates the subsidy to farms for raising livestock in the U.S.S.R. is $20 billion per year. By this subsidy, Dr. Nove pointed out, they are creating their own problem for the demand is increasing as the Soviet income increases and they can afford more meat.

He said the supply of meat to other than the big cities is very deficient.

To raise the standard of living in terms of food to U. S. standards, the U.S.S.R. would have to produce 250 million tonnes of grain each year. In 1973, their biggest harvest ever, the total grain production was 222 million tonnes which in terms of production per hectare was still far below even Eastern European countries. The average production has been about 170 million tonnes over the past few years. The 1975 production was recently reported at 137.2 million tonnes, the smallest harvest in 10 years.

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Soviet Agriculture (cont'd)

Over the past 20 years the Soviets have invested heavily in agriculture. They have increased the output of agricultural goods, but the increase has been insufficient in terms of the investment input. The investment in machinery has saved very little labor. When harvest time comes there is a great need for labor to get the harvest in and so students are sent to the fields to aid the harvest.

The Soviet climate is unfavorable to agriculture. Where there is sufficient rainfall it falls on poor soil. The good, rich soils generally receive insufficient rainfall.

The communications and transportation systems in the U.S.S.R. are often very nearly non-existent. The roads are generally mud tracks and rain or snow can cut off communications, often for long periods. This means produce cannot be delivered when ordered and 'inputs' for production often cannot be brought into the farms. The types of transport are very poorly designed.

Party officials still order the farms what to produce and make deliveries compulsory of almost any type of produce from any farm. That is all farms may have to produce all types of livestock, grain, vegetables, fruit etc. The average farm is 12,000 acres and employs between 500 and 700 people. It consists of four to eight villages and is a clumsy structure.

Labor incentives are based on the amount of work done not on the quality. There are many inspectors to see the work is done properly, but there is no incentive to till the land correctly and productively. The peasants wish to work a seven-hour day as do the city dwellers and are not willing to work long hours during harvest even if paid overtime. The farms have few skilled males and the labor across the country is poorly distributed and difficult to shift.

The farm machinery has a short life span, the quality of the machine is poor. Maintenance is poor and there are few spare parts available. Labor bottlenecks are created by parts of a system being mechanized and other parts requiring manual labor.

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Soviet Agriculture (cont'd)

One quarter of all Soviet agricultural output is produced manually on private holdings by state peasants with the average size being 3/4 of an acre. Dr, Nove sees prospects in the future of more investments in agricultural "inputs" and more efforts made to make the existing system work. He suggests there will be better machinery design and improvement will continue. Persisting inefficiencies will gradually diminish, but the heavy costs will be borne by the rest of the Soviet economy.

December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1976 TREE PRUNING COURSE

February 25 is the deadline for submitting application forms for Alberta Agriculture's spring tree pruning courses.

The two courses that are held each spring at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) have proved so popular that a third course has been added this year to enable people in the Peace River region to participate.

The first of the three courses will be held at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks on March 2 and 3, the second will be held at the provincial tree nursery at Oliver on March 9 and 10 and the third will be held at the Fairview College on March 16 and 17.

The courses cover specific pruning techniques recommended for shade trees, ornamental shrubs and fruit trees and bushes. The courses also cover insect and disease control as related to pruning, tree structure and growth, tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties recommended for Alberta. All participants will have a chance to practise the techniques they learn.

Anyone who is interested in taking one of these two-day tree pruning courses is advised to apply early because enrollment will be limited to 30 students per course. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

The registration fee is only $10 per person, and application forms can be obtained from the Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARDS WON BY ALBERTA COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

Alberta Agriculture's communications branch made a good showing at the 1975 Canadian Farm Writers' annual awards competition. The staff won an Award of Merit, the highest award given in the competition, two Honorable Mentions and a number of ribbons.

The Award of Merit was won by "Communication", a publication promoting the services provided by Alberta Agriculture's communications branch. It was produced by Susan Mayse, Garth Nielson and Leslie Wagner. Honorable Mention went to Sue Bard and Susan Mayse for their radio tape, "A Look at Alberta Products", and to Doug Pettit and Hancock Productions for a television promotional piece, "Fact Promotion".

Doug Pettit also won a red ribbon for his motion picture entry "Food at School", and Chris Silk was awarded a red ribbon for his slide presentation entitled "Alberta's Best: To You From the Land". It was said by the critics to be "truly excellent". Leslie Wagner won a red ribbon for his single color photograph entitled "Alberta Honey".

Blue ribbons were awarded to Diana Rodney for Alberta Agriculture's weekly news package "Agri-News" (the highest award given for the news packages), and to Jocelyn Tennison and Garth Nielson for a promotional piece, "Who Says Abandonded Farms are Quaint and Romantic?".

White ribbons went to Diana Rodney for a feature article and to Ling Chang and Susan Mayse for a graphic advertisement.

The "Agricultural Services Guide", entered by Susan Mayse, did not fit into any of the class categories, but received special mention as an excellent publication.

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December 29, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENGINEERING APPOINTMENT

George Calver, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch, has announced the appointment of Blaine Marler to the position of architectual technologist.

Mr. Marler will help branch specialists and extension personnel with building design problems, plan development and with research projects related to home design and engineering.

Mr. Marler was raised on a mixed farm in the Edmonton area. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1967 with a degree in agricultural engineering. In 1973 he graduated from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology with an architectual technology diploma.

He worked as a technologist with an architectual firm in Edmonton in 1973 and 1974. He joined Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch in 1975 where he worked mainly in home design.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEWAGE AND WATER SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Ron Johnston has been appointed water and sewage specialist with Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch. George Calver, acting branch head, made the announcement.

Mr. Johnston will supervise the department's water-sewage program on a province-wide basis. He will also provide engineering information for farmstead mechanization and for the development of water resources, sewage-system designs and water and water treatment systems for both livestock and household use.

Born and raised on a mixed farm in Ontario, Mr. Johnston attended the University of Guelph where he specialized in water resources engineering. He graduated with a B.Sc. (agricultural engineering) in 1968. He obtained a M.A.Sc. (agricultural engineering) from the University of British Columbia in 1972.

Prior to his present appointment, he worked for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as an extension engineer in Kingston.

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